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## THE CRESCENT AND THE CROSS.

THE massacre of Christians by Mahometans at Jeddah on the 15th of June, may seem to many people an event of no great importance. But when we view it as an illustration of the present aspect of the two religions towards each other, it is quite a different affair. The lives taken were not many, and one victim only, as far as we know, was British; but those who ever kept up communication with Eastern travellers will feel how much interest belongs to the deed at the present crisis, and how it may lead to complications the most serious that can threaten Europe.

The tendency of events for generations back has been to bring the two great symbols of dominion, the Cross and the Crescent, into more and more striking antagonism. They are the two most powerful organisations in the world, rivalled in numbers, of course, by Brahminism and Buddhism, but in practical supremacy, the governing religions of the human race. They agree in the great features of the unity of the Deity, and the instinct of propagandism, and while all the great modern history of Europe has sprung out of the one, all the great modern history of Asia has sprung out of the other. As the Roman Empire waned, it was supplanted in the two countries by these respectively. They grew up in each other's sight, and to the full consciousness of each other's enmity. They fought in battles so distant now that their details are overgrown with poetry and romance. The grand movements of the Crusaders, the long struggles in Spain, the wars in the Mediterranean and on the Danube, between the advanced guards of Christendom and the Moslems, are among the proudest of our Gothic recollections. The capture of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks was the one final mark which the disciples of the Prophet left on Europe. It was an historical anomaly: since, close after that

date, the Cross has been rising, and the Crescent waning in the sky. Europe, inspired by the nobler creed, has extended her power in every direction, and developed it at home with every variety of invention and discovery. The fairest and most famous parts of Asia have been under the Crescent meanwhile, and have fallen back into stagnation or

attention to it, he finds it difficult to make his enthusiasm about Asia understood. The quarter of the globe from which issued the faiths, the hero races, the languages, and the philosophies on which our civilisation is based, has become a mere object to Europe of curiosity or contempt. It has come to be looked on as the abode of peoples which we conquer at vast odds whenever we

care to try, and whose manners and costume are only interesting in proportion as they are theatrical. This feeling grows gradually stronger, and gains ground from the political events of late years, for, wherever we look, we find the North encroaching more and more upon the East.

Thus, in the last century, Russia has made great inroads on the Porte; England has triumphed over many Mahometan potentates of India; France has established a colony and a system of conquests in Algeria. And so, the influence progresses. We have an overland route, which more and more demands "points" of convenience and support along the coasts of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. Officers of our Indian armies have penetrated to Mecca and the most sacred places of Moslem belief. Telegraph lines are discussed and prepared for. In a score of ways the antagonistic principles are brought face to face.

But then the great events of the last few years: the Russian war—the Persian war—the Indian mutiny, have brought this movement publicly home to the eyes and hearts of all true Mussulmans. They see the Porte defended against Russia; but while defended,



THE JAILER'S DAUGHTER.—(FROM A PICTURE BY F. H. CALDERON IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.)

barbarism. Whole provinces remain half cultivated, or haunted by robbers—government is weak and corrupt—life (however picturesque) is rude bravado. When we consider what Asia once was to Europe, and think of what it has been for the last few centuries, we are struck with wonder, and the contrast is so great that when a writer like Disraeli calls

made subservient in its policy—above all, in its religious policy, its treatment of Giaours—to other Christian nations. They see the Persian chastised. They see the rebel Mahometans of India defeated and executed, and the long line of the house of Tamerlane ending in a jail. These are the great phenomena which really underlie the massacre of twenty Franks at a seaport

town which we have this week heard of. It may seem, we repeat, a small event, but it springs from great ones. When an earthquake nearly destroyed Lisbon, the same movement made the water start up in Scottish lakes; and this is the way that mighty movements also act in the moral and historical world. Very likely more local explanations of the Jeddah massacre may be forthcoming. There may have been personal as well as religious influences at work. But, allowing for all this, we shall still maintain that the deed was committed by clear distinct threads with the whole historical circumstances already detailed. And it is important that the public should see it in this light, and not pass it over as one of the capricious freaks of barbarous crimes only.

Of course, it is easy to say what ought to be done in consequence of this particular atrocious crime committed by itself. Ample reparation must be made, and chastisement inflicted; and it may be well to consider what guarantees we ought to require for future security, and whether our now renewed lease of power in India will not require a larger naval force than hitherto in those parts. All this immediate work may safely be left to the energy of the Government, in harmony (as we believe it to be) with the Government of France, which has on this occasion been even more violently insulted than ourselves. But when we come to the further questions connected with the incident—the general agitation of the Moslem mind, the weakness of the Porte in relation to its vassals, and its inefficiency for the protection of its Christian subjects; finally, to the way in which these difficulties may affect European politics by and by—we open a field of inquiry of the most important and difficult kind. The Eastern question involves the possibility of war between the European Powers, and that (as we said the other day) involves all kind of political and internal questions for the nations, too. It would be absurd to lay down a policy on such subjects in a paragraph; and we are not going to make the attempt. But it is worth while to show the magnitude of the possibilities connected with the event which has suggested this article, and that for another reason besides the general importance of the subject. We can, in England, avoid a foolish meddling with foreign politics. We can avoid endeavouring to impose upon other nations a constitution which needs a good deal of repair among ourselves. We can avoid squabbles with Continental nations about matters with which we have little to do. But we cannot—with our position in India and the Mediterranean—avoid the difficulty (whenever it may come) of contributing our quota to the settlement of the East. We must always be ready to decide what line to take when the condition of the Porte's Government or finances becomes serious, and therefore it is that we ought not to pass over a Jeddah slaughter of Europeans without most anxious remark. The opportunity must be taken of coming to an explanation with the Porte about its capability of keeping order in districts where Europeans reside under its protection, or its willingness to yield to them the means by which they may protect themselves. We must also know what degree of agreement still exists between England and Louis Napoleon on the general subject of the Porte, notwithstanding their difference of opinion about the Principalities, and the ill-omened junction of a Russian frigate with the French squadron in the South. If common appearances are to be trusted, our alliance is as much desired by him as ever, notwithstanding this last fact; and we cannot doubt that this alliance is the best hope for Europe during the complications arising from an increasing antagonism between Christianity and Mahometanism co-existing along with the political necessity of maintaining the power of the Sultan. For it is in that complication that the knot of the famous Eastern question lies.

#### THE JAILER'S DAUGHTER.

If we were a despotic monarch, we should take care that our Petrovsky fortress, our Spielberg Castle, or our Château de Vincennes, were governed by a jailer without a daughter. That jailer's daughter is always spoiling the phase of the incarcerated of innocence. They are handsome, she is tender-hearted, the father is a drunkard, and a bottle of brandy and a turn of the massive lock settle the whole business. Or if the young lady cannot compass the loved one's escape, she can procure him numberless comforts during the period of his confinement. Who supplied Wifskywofsky, the Pole, with all kinds of books while he was shut up in St. Petersburg? Who gave Szeczydy, the Hungarian, his tobacco when the Austrian tormentors had deprived him of it? Who introduced the writings of Victor Hugo and Schelcher into Mont St. Michel, when Ruzet, the republican, was there pining for sympathy and support from his fellow-sufferers? In each case, we answer for it, it was the jailer's daughter. As the daughter of the horse-leech cried perpetually, "Give, give, give," so the daughter of the jailer exclaims without ceasing, "Take, take, take." It is she who renders tolerable the prison that would otherwise be a grave, and sometimes even converts it into a bower of felicity.

We fancy that Providence which places the oasis in the desert, and plants flowers by the side of thistles, has willed that jailers shall not be childless, and that their children shall be girls. Look, you who have read M. de Stendhal's admirable book, at Fabrizio in the state prison of Parma. He is on the point of abandoning himself to despair, and his position is indeed a hopeless one, when suddenly in a conservatory just facing his window, he perceives Clelia, the daughter of General Conti, the governor. Day after day he gazes at the "jailer's daughter," and she knowing that the Fabrizio of her heart is condemned to die, waters her flowers as plentifully as if each were an hydrangea. At last they love one another, a regular system of communication by signs is established, and at a given moment Clelia rushes to Fabrizio's cell, and arrives just in time to save her adored one's life—for to avoid the scandal of a public execution it has been resolved to poison him.

Richard Courte de Lioa, again, owed his preservation in part, it is true, to Blondel, but principally to the "jailer's daughter," without whom nothing could have been done. Blondel might have sung and played from morning till night; that would not have loosened the King's letters, nor would music alone have had much effect upon the heart of his custodian. But Blondel sings, the jailer causes him to enter the prison to continue his song, and this singing leads to drinking and jollity generally, jollity to intoxication, and intoxication to unconsciousness. Then comes forward the soft-hearted, undutiful daughter, who robs her father of his keys, liberates his Majesty, and elopes with "the pretty page."

But in most cases we believe that it is with the prisoner himself the young lady falls in love; and therefore if the jailer's daughter in Mr. Calderon's picture were only a shade better-looking, we would not pity the supposed victim in the least; for that in the course of time he will be restored to freedom there can be no doubt; and, in the meanwhile, his existence will be anything but an unhappy one. It is all very well for the painter to show us an open window through which the exterior landscape is just visible, as if that were something to be deeply regretted. The prisoner will have enough to do staring into the large eyes of the jailer's daughter, and will find pictures sufficient in her ever-changing countenance; and in due time he will be liberated, and perhaps, like the Fabrizio before a hullock to, will regret his capacity, and find that every place is a prison where she is not. But that he will escape is certain. Either the jailer's daughter will herself take the keys from her father's pocket, or she will press into her service that

little sister who is already so willing to assist her; and the deed will be done by a child not yet six years of age, but who, thanks to the atmosphere of a prison, is in mind considerably older.

There is also another more complicated and more dramatic scheme by which Mr. Calderon's prisoner might gain his liberty. In love it often happens that instead of the reciprocal business, Tom loves Sally, Sally Bill, and Bill Mary Ann. Now if the jailer's daughter loves the prisoner, her lover is probably some person who lives outside the prison, and for whom she does not care a fig. She promises this person her hand on condition that he drinks copiously that evening with her father, so that the escape of the one she loves, may be effected while the old man is intoxicated. Then she takes poison like Leonora, in the "Trovatore;" or else makes up her mind to lead a resigned, sacrificial sort of life, like the heroine of a modern English novel. But the best view to take of the matter, is that which involves the elopement of the jailer's daughter with the prisoner himself; for then, not only does all "end happily," as novel-readers say; but there is a little girl left, who, in the course of time, will grow up and be able to liberate and clothe with a prisoner herself.

#### Foreign Intelligence.

##### FRANCE.

The announcement that the Queen of England has accepted the invitation of the French Emperor, to be present at the fêtes at Cherbourg, has given much more satisfaction in Paris than in London. The French journals glow with enthusiasm as they record this new proof of the victory of England to the unformed monster called an alliance.

There are rumours of something like another conspiracy against the Emperor's life having been discovered, and of arrests having been made. It is usual, the parties said to be implicated, and a priest of that country is in custody.

It seems that the office of Director General of Public Safety will be revived, and be attached, as before, to the Department of the Interior.

##### SPAIN.

The Spanish Cabinet seems to have been occupied with the consideration of insults and injuries inflicted upon it by other Powers. A note "to demand explanations from the English Cabinet, relative to the offensive language employed by Lord Malmesbury towards Spain," has been drawn up in terms which, says the "España," "possess all the dignity and energy which become a nation of such glorious antecedents as ours, and such as is required by the gratuitous and unjust nature of the accusation and by the dignity of the Spanish name." Moreover it is projected to send 10,000 troops to Mexico to demand peremptorily reparation for the outrages committed on Spanish subjects, and, in case of refusal, to commence hostilities. An imposing squadron is to accompany the expedition.

Marshal O'Donnell has issued a decree ordering the ramparts of Alicante to be demolished, so as to allow room for the expansion demanded by the trade of the town. The same measure is to be applied to other towns where the population is outgrowing the area, and particularly to St. Sebastian.

Fifteen civil governors have been superseded.

##### RUSSIA.

The Russian subsidy to Prince Danilo, of Montenegro, which for three years has been unpaid, was, according to the "Oest Deutsche Post," paid by the Russian Consul on the 27th of June last. The amount sent was 27,000 ducats.

It is reported that there are now in China no less than ten or twelve distinguished Russian officials on a secret mission, the object of which is supposed to be to make a treaty, if possible, between the Russian and Chinese Governments which will give the former the sole privilege and control of trading—not only the inland trade, but in all the ports of this great empire. Some of these officials have privately proceeded to Pekin, and have had an audience with the Emperor.

##### ITALY.

In consequence of the recent disturbance in Rome between the Papal troops and those of the French garrison, General Guyon intimated that he would declare Rome in a state of siege; Cardinal Antonelli threatened to take off the Pope and Court to Ancona under Austrian patronage; a little passage of arms, which makes the position of the French in Rome unpleasant.

There was a rumour at Turin that the Neapolitan Government had offered an indemnity of 100,000 francs for the detention of the *Cagliari* and her crew, and that the company to whom the ship belonged refused the sum as insufficient.

The Genoa "Corriere Mercantile" states that the Archduke Maximilian, in passing through Padua, ordered some students, who had been arrested for joining in a demonstration to the memory of Felice Orsini, to be set at liberty; but that, as soon as he was gone, the military authorities caused them to be again imprisoned.

##### TURKEY AND THE EAST.

M. THOUVENEL, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, has applied to the Porte for its acquiescence in the wish of the plenipotentiaries of the great Powers to revise the act relative to the navigation of the Danube. We also hear that the Turkish Ambassador at Paris was to apply to the English Government to order the evacuation of Perim.

Considerable agitation against Europeans prevailed at Suez, and it had been found necessary to send troops there in order to prevent a movement.

The Sultan has issued an Imperial decree, calling out a large number of men, to fill up the losses occasioned by the recent expeditions, and for the purpose of "enforcing the engagements entered into with foreign Powers."

Hostilities have again broken out in Montenegro. The Turks are said to be the aggressors.

##### AMERICA.

There is a rupture between the United States and Mexico, the cause of which seems to be this: The new and revolutionary Government of Mexico had resolved upon a forced loan, and when this resolution was known great excitement arose in the capital. Those foreigners who refused to find the money were ordered to leave the country; and not only so, but the goods of the American citizens who would not comply were seized. The American Minister, therefore, demanded his passage, and received them.

In respect of the Right of Search question, the news is merely a confirmation of the announcement already made in London. The British Government abandons not only the practice of the right of search or visit, but also the principle; and the whole matter will be promptly considered and settled on a basis to prevent trouble hereafter.

One of the Washington papers "understands from a reliable source" that the President had determined to send such a naval force to Nicaragua as "will convince the Governments of England and France that our way to our Pacific possessions is not to be interfered with."

Advices from Camp Scott, Utah, to the 10th of June, appear to corroborate a report previously received, that General Johnston would shortly move into Salt Lake city. His force is very small—at the greatest, not more than 3,000 effective men.

##### AUSTRALIA.

AUSTRALIAN journals recently received go to show that a very strong feeling of irritation exists at the inefficiency of the mail service, which, indeed, is not at all to be wondered at. The "Melbourne Argus" says—"This is what the people of Victoria will stand no longer; and the British Government will be duly put in possession of a solemn resolution upon the subject, passed unanimously by the Legislature, and which was despatched by the last mail."

The gold fields continue to be steadily productive.

#### THE INDIAN REVOLT.

THE news from India is comprehended in the following items, telegraphed:—

Sir Colin Campbell was still at Fazley Fort, on the 31st of May. The Calpoo rebels were advancing upon Gwior; they were plundering, but paying for everything. A large body of British troops were concentrating in Gwalior.

Seindia was reported to have been beaten by the rebels on the 1st of June, and to have arrived at Agra. Some of his own troops deserted him in the fight.

The rebels were again becoming troublesome in Central India, and re-occupying many forts from which they had been driven by General Rose.

General Jones had burnt Mohumdee and the adjacent villages without opposition. Chundu was occupied by Smith's Brigade.

An extensive fire had broken out in the English barracks at Allahabad. The Governor-General exerted himself greatly, but five ranges of buildings were destroyed. The soldiers escaped without injury.

Lucknow was still threatened by the enemy.

Troops were marched against the Moulvi at Shahabad, and working parties had been sent to destroy the jungles in which the mutineers still held out.

The Barrackpore regiments had received the option of disbandment or of service in China.

#### THE WAR IN CHINA.

An almost unintelligible telegram informs us that "the news from Lord Elgin is to the 29th of April, when the allied forces were in the Gulf of Peiho. The French had got two gunboats over the bar, but our two despatch-boats had stuck. The English and French admirals were both at Peiho, and it was expected that in a few days the first blow in the north might be struck by the capture of the forts at the mouth of the river. The Chinese Government had named commissioners to negotiate, but the letter announcing the fact had retimed owing to an assumption of superiority on the part of the Chinese." The steamer Sampson had taken up two gunboats and 150 Sappers to the Peiho. Her Majesty's 59th Regiment was reported under orders for the north. The French transport *Gironde* had arrived with 900 marine infantry." We learn that 1,000 English troops had also arrived at Hong-Kong.

#### MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS.

In the town of Jeddah, on the coast of the Red Sea, the Mahometan population have risen against the Christians, whom they massacred wherever they were found. Among the victims were the French Consul and his wife, and Mr. Page, our own Vice-Consul, and his household; they were literally hacked to pieces. About twenty other persons were put to death, and the English and French Consulates were plundered.

The massacre happened on the 15th of June, and on the 19th a Turkish official arrived with 800 troops. This was the Governor-General of the sacred province of Arabia, who happened at the time to have been in Mecca. Her Majesty's ship *Cyclops*, which was cruising about, also did some service in rescuing those who had fled. Two boats sent to the town were attacked, and the men were obliged to fire on those who endeavoured to intercept their retreat. The daughter of the French Consul got on board the *Cyclops*, so did the French interpreter, and a number of Greek and other Christians, some of whom were wounded, while others had to swim to escape from their murderers. The *Cyclops* then sailed for Suez, and the news was telegraphed home from Malta.

A young Greek of Candia killed a Turk in self-defence. The body of the Mussulman was conveyed to the mosque, and a general rising took place. The European consulates, as well as the Catholic churches, were insulted. The French flag was fired on, and the hotel of the Turkish admiral was threatened, unless the Greek was put to death. The Greek was strangled by order of the admiral, and his body was given up to the populace, and was dragged by them before the houses of the consuls. The Christians are leaving the Canea in crowds.

The Turks at Rethmo have devastated the churches in that town, wounding several of the clergy, and taken possession of the citadel, the artillerymen stationed in it taking part with the mob.

#### THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

THE *Agamemnon* arrived at Queenstown on Monday morning, having left the rendezvous in the centre of the Atlantic on the 6th inst.

On the voyage out with the other vessels of the squadron a succession of tremendous south-westerly gales was encountered, which scattered all the ships for some days. During this time the very heavy and unequal load on board the *Agamemnon* made her condition one of danger. At one time, indeed, the storm was so violent that the chances were strongly in favour of her going to the bottom with all on board.

The worst storm was during the 20th and 21st of June, when the *Agamemnon* rolled so heavily and dangerously as in her then trim to lead to serious fears that the masts would go overboard, or that she would capsize completely and founder.

In these heavy lurches the coals which were stowed in the main and lower decks broke away, and seriously injured several of the crew.

The electric instruments were all injured. The main coal in the bottom of the hold shifted. The deck boats got adrift. The iron screw guard was wrenched in two, and the waste steam-pipe between the boilers broken, all by the heavy rolling. Twice, after every effort had been made to ease the ship, which was much hampered by the upper deck coil of 236 tons forward, it was found necessary to run before the wind, so that it was only on the 25th of June that the rendezvous was made, and the other vessels of the squadron sighted.

The first splice was made on the 26th, and was broken an hour afterwards on board the after *Niagara*, three miles had been paid out from each vessel. The second splice was also made on the 26th, and broke at 4 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, the 27th, parting apparently at the bottom of the sea, after some miles had been made from each ship. The third and last splice parted at 10.30 p.m. on the night of the 29th, about six fathoms below the stern of the *Agamemnon*, after 146 miles had been paid out of that vessel. The cause of the last fracture is not known, as the strain of the wire was only 2,200 lbs.

After this the *Agamemnon* returned to the rendezvous, and cruised for five days, during which she met with sufficient bad weather to prove that the removal of the upper deck coal had almost restored her to her trim, and certainly rendered her buoyant on a sea. Unfortunately, the *Niagara* did not return to the rendezvous, so that the only fine weather which the expedition had was totally lost, and the *Agamemnon* had to proceed to Queenstown.

There are still 2,500 miles of wire on board the two ships. It is intended to fill up with coal and fresh provisions and start for a final attempt to-day (Saturday).

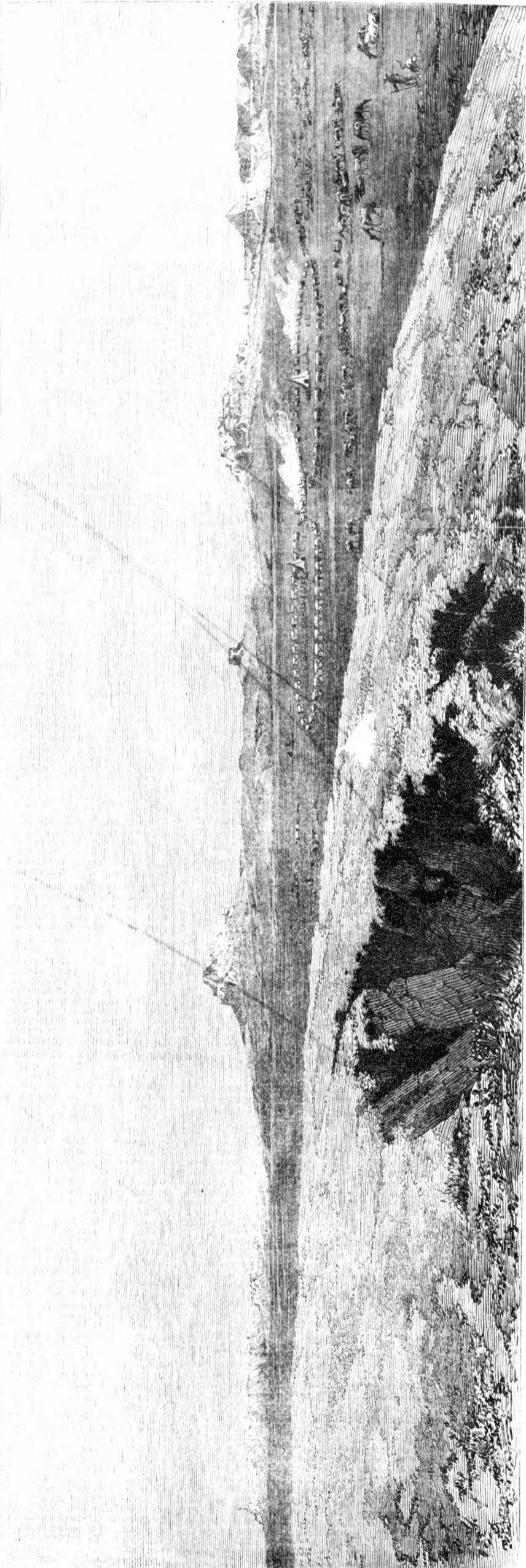
THE TRIAL OF THE MARQUIS DI CAMPANA.—The great Campana trial came to a conclusion on the 5th inst. The criminal tribunal found the Marquis guilty of the peculation and abuse of power attributed to him in his administration of the Monte di Pietà, and condemned him in consequence to the galleys—that is to say, imprisonment with hard work for twenty years. It is not generally believed that this sentence will be carried out in all its rigour. As a kind of relief to this sentence, the criminal tribunal has ordered the prisoner's advocate, Signor Marchetti, to be suspended from the exercise of his profession for three months, as a punishment for the piquancy of his rejoinders and warmth of his expressions in defence of his client.

AHMED PACHA, who so unfortunately met his death by the accident on the Nile Railway, has left a legacy of 1,600,000 francs, and diamonds to the value of 500,000 francs, to Baroness Vigier (late Milib. Cravelli). He had never spoken to her in his life, but made his will after seeing her on the stage of the Opera.





SCOTT'S BLUFFS.



RANGE OF ROCKS ON THE PLATTE.

## M. DELANGLE.

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED FRENCH  
MINISTER.

The nomination of M. Delangle to the Home Department of France has proved highly satisfactory, both at home and abroad. Any one coming after General Espinasse was sure to be welcome; therefore it is nothing extraordinary that M. Delangle's appointment was viewed with favour, independently of any merits of his own.

M. Delangle proved docile enough while First President of the Imperial Court of Paris; but yet he is accustomed to legal procedure, has a natural respect for the law which he administers; and whatever his shortcomings, the Home Office has at any rate ceased to be directed like a barracks.

However, there is no reason to doubt M. Delangle's talent, any more than his liberality. During his short term of office, he has given proofs of both these qualities; and, indeed, it was by the solidity of his intelligence alone—by his legal learning, and his sagacity as a man of business—that he won his high place in the courts. This is all very well: for sagacity and industry are much wanted in M. Delangle's department at present; and of sound, frank advisers the Emperor appears to have not many. One sign of an improved state of things has strikingly appeared since M. Delangle's appointment. Not only is the garotte which choked the French press in General Espinasse's reign somewhat eased, but, the press makes the first use of its breath to cry for still more liberty. "Cry," is not exactly the word, perhaps; it is soft beseeching, rather; but, moderate as it is, no "able editor" would have dared to utter it under the *régime* of the military Bumble cashiered.

HIRING SERVANTS IN  
LOWER NORMANDY.

THE Sunday of each year which precedes the 18th of July, commences



M. DELANGLE, THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY LUGRAY.)



HIRING OF SERVANTS IN LOWER NORMANDY.

in the rural districts of Normandy the hiring of farm-servants.

The assemblage of candidates for employment generally takes place on the village-green, where the country people of both sexes muster in force, and arrange themselves according to their capacities for office, the women adorned with bouquets, and the men carrying whips surmounted with bunches of flowers.

Every stage from youth to old age may be found there; the chubby boy and the stooping graybeard; the ruddy, buxom lass and the wrinkled, sun-burnt woman, telling of a life spent in toil, and a premature loss of vigour; the jolly miller, from whose lips comes an unceasing flow of song; the old shepherd in his picturesque dress, a kind of village Biogenes, whose sorrowful mien bears witness to the long hours of solitude in which his existence is slowly consumed.

The employer only makes a choice after having most carefully examined the personal appearance and physical qualifications of these tilleds of the earth. If he is seeking a ploughman, he will cast his eye on some brawny lad, whose muscular limbs and sinewy hands give promise of a sturdy performance of his duties, and familiarity with hard work, one whose strong and pliant wrist is capable of guiding the plough through the furrows with steadiness and regularity. Again, the ploughman has absolute control in the stables; it is he who does the carting of the farm, and has the care and dressing of that noble team which is at once the pride of both master and man. The choice of a servant like this is not to be made recklessly.

While the worthy farmer is discussing the remuneration to be given for the men's "whips" (meaning their labour), his dame is battling and driving bargains with dairy-maids and milking-girls. Confusion of argument and words on this side the green is certainly as great as was that of Babel.

The wages of a ploughman vary from £8 to £12; those of an ordinary labourer, from £1 to £3. A herdsman gets from £2 to £3; if he picks hares while tending the flock, he has given him as a gratification at the end of the year, perhaps, a coarse shirt.

The provided women servants earn from £6 to £10 a year, besides a gift of six yards of cloth, a pair of women shoes, and their little odds and ends. The younger ones of twelve or fifteen years of age are paid from £2 to £4.

#### INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, NO. 81. SHARP PRACTICE.

We have, we think, before described the process of bringing in bills; but that our readers may understand fully a little piece of sharp practice that was perpetrated on Friday night, or rather on Saturday morning, we will describe it again. The gentleman who wishes to bring in a bill first gives notice of his intention; the notice is printed on the notice board; at the close of the night, when all the orders of the day are disposed of, he rises, and, generally with a speech, moves or leave, &c. The motion is put from the chair, and, in almost all cases, is carried *sub silentio*. At the end of all the other business, the mover takes his stand at the bar, and is called by name by the Speaker, whenupon he calls out, "Bill, Sir?" "Bring it up," says the Speaker; and on receiving it from the hands of the mover, he puts the question, "That the bill be read a first time." Now, on Friday night Mr. Disraeli moved for leave to bring in a bill to give effect to a reward upon a difference between the Queen and the Prince of Wales about some rights of succession in the Duchy of Lancaster—a bill which seems to be a very harmless affair—in fact, a mere matter of routine, and certainly one which ought not to have been opposed at its first stage. The Mr. Augustus Smith the member for Truro, thought otherwise, for he opposed the introduction of the bill, and divided the House upon it. Now, as it was half-past one o'clock, there was some difficulty in getting the requisite forty members. However, by dint of counting out all the places which members frequent, it was done, and Mr. Smith was defeated by 36 to 52; and it was supposed that Mr. Smith, satisfied with the defeat, would offer no further opposition to the measure that night, especially as he would have plenty of opportunities of holding at future stages of the measure. But Mr. Smith is a man to do in a day what other occasions he has shown a remarkable tenacity of purpose; and on this he fully justified the character which he bears in the House, for noticing that many members had left the House, he called the attention of the Speaker to the fact that there were not forty members present; and thus, by "a count out," prevented the bill from being brought up and read, and not only this bill, but some seven or eight others which the movers were waiting at the bar to bring up. The effect of this sharp practice is, that all these bills—most of them "continuation bills," which must pass—will have to be brought up again. Of course Mr. Smith was within the rules of the House; but it is sharp practice. This gentleman came into Parliament for the first time in 1857. He is a man of large property and influence in the Scilly Isles; indeed, we rather think he is sole proprietor of those islands. He lives at Tresco Abbey, Tresco, one of the islands, where he is "monarch of all he surveys," and he has the reputation of having achieved great credit in his island domain in educating and civilizing his subjects. We wish that he had been quietly sleeping in his palace at Tresco that night instead of counting out the House, for it is not improbable that this feat of his may add a day or two to the session. Mr. Disraeli looked very grim at him, and if the Chancellor's wrying days were not over, the Honourable Member might possibly find himself embalmed some day in a novel under a not very pleasant name.

#### A KING IN THE HOUSE.

It was on Friday night, when there was seen the unusual spectacle of a veritable negro, black as a coal, sitting in the place of honour under the gallery, which is set apart for the peers of England when they come down to listen to the debates in the Commons' House. The appearance of this gentleman in such a place excited a good deal of attention; and it was generally thought to be a mistake to place him there. "Surely," it was said, "the gallery for strangers was good enough for a nigger, but to place him amongst peers was an error." But on inquiry being made, it was found that the coloured gentleman bears a higher title than the proudest peer—for he is a veritable king—and not a king clogged by constitutional forms, but as despotic in his dominions as Louis Napoleon is in France; nay, more, for he is absolute, his will is law, and the life and property of every subject is entirely at his mercy. He is King of Bonny, on the western coast of Africa, and whom he will he can set up, and whom he will he can put down. His Majesty is an old man, and somewhat paralysed in his limbs. He was introduced into the House by our metropolitan monarch, Mr. Thwaites. He talks English well, and his sway is as benevolent as it is despotic, we understand. One of his achievements deserves record. He has put down cannibalism in his dominions, and taught his subjects to feed upon the fruits of the earth instead of devouring one another. It was a strange sight to him, that popular assembly of ours. It would be worth something to know what are his ideas of our representative government.

#### AN IRISH ROW.

On Thursday night, last week, my Lord Naas brought in his bill for the Abolition of the Dublin Police Force, and for substituting the Irish constabulary in its stead in the city. It came on when the members were most of them at dinner; and, in spite of the eloquence of Mr. Patrick O'Brien, passed its second reading, and was thought to be disposed of for that night. But, lo! at an opportune moment, it rushed some half-dozen Irish members, breathless with haste, just as the Speaker was putting the question that the bill be committed on Monday. Now, it is exceedingly rare that any debate arises on the question. It is considered to be merely formal—and to offer an opposition to it is, if within the rules, certainly not consistent with the usage of the House. But Irishmen care nothing for usage or etiquette when their tempers are up; and on this occasion the debate which had been finished was again renewed, and for two hours we had a jolly row. Mr. Cavan denounced the bill—Mr. McCarthy swore eternal enmity to it—Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald fiercely attacked Mr. Whiteside for a personal attack upon one of the Dublin Police Commissioners—Mr. Sergeant Deasy, in passionate strains, and with vehement gestures, backed up his honourable friend; and even Mr. Wilson, the late Secretary of the Treasury, usually calm and wary, declared that Mr. Whiteside's conduct was unprecedented in quoting a letter of accusation against an absent man without also reading the said absent man's defence. Mr. Whiteside re-read the letter which he had quoted, when, lo! it turned out that the absent man had not been mentioned nor hinted at. Mr. Bowyer advised the Government to withdraw the bill. Mr. Maguire moved the adjournment of the debate, which motion allowed every member who had already spoken to speak again. At last Mr. McCann finished the discussion by declaring in his rich Irish brogue that he should support the "proceeding" speakers, and oppose the introduction of policemen with guns, and "barnets," and swords, into the city of Dublin. And then the row subsided. The cause of this opposition seems to be twofold. First, there is the old feud between Catholics and Protestants. According to Mr. Whiteside, it is impossible to get into the police-force, as at present constituted, the due proportion of Protestants. And secondly, the Irish members on the Liberal side of the House object to the introduction of the constabulary armed like soldiers into the city. What the rights of the case are it is difficult for Englishmen to determine; but one thing is perfectly certain, my Lord Naas will not pass his bill this year against such a formidable and passionate opposition, and so he had better withdraw it. It is noticeable that D'Israeli never interferes in these Irish squabbles. Pakington used to rush in and flourish his shillelah in true Irish style, and seemed to enjoy the fun. But all the while this fight was going on, D'Israeli sat with his hat pulled over his brows, and wisely allowed the storm to expend itself without his interference; and we have our

motion that he will advise his Irish Secretary not again to provoke an Irish row, but quietly to withdraw his bill. It does not suit his book to excite Irish animosity against his Government.

#### CHANGE SIDES.

Those who are in the habit of attending concerts, and listening to the compositions of our great masters, may have observed that it is a common practice amongst them, when they wish to get into a new subject, to pass through an interval of discord, and then gradually to resolve into harmony again, with an entirely new subject and different key. Now, we sometimes imagine that, in the political world, we are going through this process; and at this moment are in the interval of discord, preparatory to an entire change in the arrangement of parties. That all is discord in the political world just now, no man can doubt. In the Liberal camp the want of harmony is complete, for scarcely a dozen men are acting together. Nor is the discord much less harsh in the Conservative ranks, all appearances to the contrary notwithstanding. It is true that, for the present, the Conservatives act tolerably well together; but there is a good deal of secret division, nevertheless, which must show itself in open rebellion before long. This is observable in the tone of the Conservative journals. The "Standard" lauds the Conservative Government for its reforming, progressive tendency; and the "Press" denounces these tendencies as un-Conservative; and it is also noticeable in the conversation of the old school of Conservatism—the Spoulers, Newdeates, Bentincks, &c. They are not at all satisfied with the state of affairs. They vote, or they remain neutral; but they growl and grumble not a little, and begin to suspect that they have changed King Leo for King Stork. The question is, then, what will this discord *resolvere* into? It cannot last long. It is clearly, like the discordant passages of the musical composer, preparatory to something else. The answer seems to be that eventually there will be a great change in the arrangement of parties. For many years past all the members on one side of the House were considered Liberals; all on the other Conservatives. But it is plain to all who have watched the House, that this arbitrary division no longer correctly symbolises the real state of parties. For instance: the advanced Conservatives are, in position, opposed to the Whigs; but what is the difference between their political views? Can any one say what is the difference between Palmerston, Russell, Grey, Wood, Labouchere, on the one side, and D'Israeli, Walpole, Pakington, and Henley, on the other? Again, the Whigs and the Radicals sit together, and are called by the generic term, "Liberals." But what sympathy is there really between them? Surely, there is far more agreement between the Liberal Conservatives and the Whigs than there is between the Whigs and the Radicals. Well, then, why should not the parties who have sympathy with each other join? Some years ago there were certain great reforms to be achieved which the Conservatives of all shades opposed, and the Liberals of all shades advocated; but these being achieved, a new state of things has arisen. The Radicals aim at still further changes. These the Whigs oppose, and so do the Conservatives. And it is our opinion that not long hence the Whigs, driven on by the great and increasing body of the Radicals, will be obliged to make common cause with the Conservatives to oppose radical innovations. There are, however, two things which will retard this movement for a time. First, the power of old traditions. The Whigs are traditional Liberals, and will hesitate before they openly join their traditional Conservative foes; and on the other side, the Conservatives, liberal as they may be, will remember their traditions, and hold back for a time from openly forming an alliance with men whom they have so despised; but the junction will come, we verily believe, and if a Reform Bill be introduced through the House next session which shall extend the suffrage, and thereby strengthen the Radical force, the junction will be inevitable. But there is, secondly, the personal difficulty. A junction like this would of course bring such a number of aspirants for office that it would be impossible to satisfy them. When a party comes into power now, there are always more claimants than offices; but if two parties were to join, of course the claimants would be doubled in number. This consideration will necessarily retard this junction for a long time; but powerful as this objection is, it must give way if the Radical party continue to increase in numbers as it has done for the last ten years. Already it is so strong as to make a Whig Government almost impossible. Soon it will be stronger, and then the liberal Conservatives, hampered by the old Tories behind, and the Whigs distressed by the Radicals on their flank, will be compelled to join and form a strong *juste milieu* party.

#### THE PENSIONS.

In our last we hinted that if the Conservatives can hang on to office until the end of April next, certain of their members may claim their pensions; and on referring to the Act of Parliament, we find that we were right. For, by the 4th and 5th William IV., cap. 24, it is enacted that the First Lord of the Treasury, one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the President of the Board of Control, and the President of the Board of Trade, may receive pensions if they have held one or more of the said offices for a period of not less than two years in the whole, uninterruptedly, or at different times, provided that no more than four pensions shall be in existence or in force at the same time. The pension for these offices not to exceed *two thousand pounds per annum*.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland and Secretary at War must hold one or more of these offices for *five years* before a pension can be granted; and no more than two of these pensions can exist at the same time. The pension attached to these offices is not to exceed *fourteen hundred a year*.

The Joint Secretaries of the Treasury, First Secretary of the Admiralty, and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Trade, must hold these offices *five years* before they can be pensioned. The pension not to exceed *twelve hundred a year*; and only four pensions to be in existence at the same time.

The Under-Secretaries of State, Clerk of Ordnance, Secretary to the Admiralty, and Secretaries to the India Board, must have served *ten years*, and the pension is not to exceed *one thousand a year*; and only six such pensions can exist at the same time.

But in all these cases no pension can be granted, unless the claimant make a declaration that his income from other sources is inadequate to maintain his station in life. What the custom is as to this declaration, and how many pensioned officers of State there are now, we have no means of ascertaining—for these items of expenditure are not enumerated in the Estimates; but it is clear that if there are vacancies, Mr. Disraeli, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Henley, and Mr. Walpole will have a right to their pensions at the end of April next, if they choose to make the above declaration.

#### THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN.

On Friday evening, just as the House had opened, there was seen a novel procession crossing the lobby. It consisted of a short gentleman, clothed in scarlet gown, with a heavy S.S. collar round his neck, said to contain many pounds' weight of gold; a tall man, in black gown; another in Court dress, with sword by his side and in his hand a short staff, surmounted by a crown; another in curious costume, carrying a sword some six feet long; and still another, bearing in his arms, and not across his shoulder, a ponderous silver-gilt mace, which seemed to be as much as he could well carry. The gentleman that led this procession was the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and the others were the officers of the Corporation. My Lord Mayor, on due notice being given, marched into the House to the bar, heralded by the doorkeeper, who called out, "The Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin," and accompanied by the serjeant-at-arms. The business of my Lord Mayor there was to present a petition against the Police Bill above mentioned. He had come specially all the way from Dublin to oppose in established form this obnoxious measure. The mace and sword were left at the door, as such insignia of office are not allowed within the precincts of the House. It is many years ago since a Lord Mayor of Dublin claimed the privilege of presenting a petition at the bar of the House.

#### Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 9.  
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

The Earl of MALDENSHIRE stated that the Government had limited the operation engaged in impressing the slave trade in the Colonies which, as there was no intention of removing it from the coast of Africa, where it had been very successful.

Lord LEISURE called attention to the unsatisfactory state of the law respecting the regulation of slave-houses; and

The Bishop of Lichfield said a short discussion on a point in the law of Chancery, related that before the close of the session he hoped he should be able to introduce a bill on the subject, or at least suggest some mode of settling the question that would be satisfactory to all parties.

The Select Committee on Bills was read a third time.

The report of a committee on the Orkney Bill was agreed to.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE THAMES.

Mr. COX moved a resolution that the cost of the purification of the river Thames be the subject of an additional Fund, and the amount of an equal proportion to be borne by the Consolidated Fund and the revenue of the taxpayers in equal proportion.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brougham, and opposed by Mr. BENTINCK, who declared that the House would not be justified in incurring such a taxation, and that every pound, besides a retrospective tax on the income of £100, should be raised from the Consolidated Fund for this object.

Sir G. LEWIS moved a bill that the motion was an evasion of the orders of the House, under which the previous motion out of the Crown was, in reality, as well as in its amount, a contribution of supply. He recommended that the discussion should be adjourned until the Government had before the House some short propositions upon the subject.

The Sir G. LEWIS' motion, which was agreed to, was referred to a committee of supply, and it would be necessary to proceed no more in a committee of supply.

The Committee of the Exchequer said he hoped the House would accede to the suggestion of Sir G. LEWIS, as it was the intention of the Government speedily to introduce a measure relating to the purification of the Thames.

After some further discussion, Mr. COX offered to withdraw his motion, but the motion was withdrawn, the motion was put and negatived.

#### TRADE MARKS.

Mr. S. FRIZZARD, with a view to the existing position and prospects of the shareholders in the case, inquired whether they proposed to fix a period for the termination of this session without committing Parliament to adopt a measure in which their views shall be embodied.

The Committee of the Exchequer declared he was not prepared to say, on the part of the Government, that it was their intention to introduce any measure during the session to act on the subject of chartularies; but they did not finish the long debate on the subject, and would take the earliest opportunity, when Parliament returned, to ask its assent to a measure which they trusted might be accepted as a satisfactory solution of it.

#### TRADE MARKS.

In reply to Mr. BENTINCK, Mr. S. FRIZZARD said the attention of the Government had been called to the importance of a general protection in conjunction with other states, regarding model chartularies, and he was not without hope that a measure might be introduced on the subject this session.

The House readily took into a committee of supply, when a long and elaborate bill was introduced on the estimate for education in Ireland, with a clause to amend the National system, and the working of the system, both of which were very freely criticized.

This violent criticism on the bill having been referred to, the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

Several bills were advanced at a stage, and leave was given to introduce others.

In introducing his Government of India Bill, Lord PALMERSTON characterized it as the last legacy of the late Government.

Mr. L. KING likewise withdrew the County Franchise Bill.

#### MONDAY, JULY 12.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

##### THE ADMISSION OF JEWS INTO PARLIAMENT.

On the order of the day for considering the report of the reasons to be offered to the House of Commons for persisting in their Lordships' Amendments to the Orkney Bill,

Lord GRANVILLE thought the policy of persisting in these reasons, after having passed Lord Lucas' bill, permitting Jews to sit in Parliament, but for the sake of conciliation, given a permissive authority to the other House to admit them. It was then still competent to their Lordships to express their reasons for dissenting from the original bill.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE thought the course proposed most singular. With a bill on the table that was really intended to allow Jews to sit in Parliament, they were asked to agree to reasons why they ought not to be allowed to sit there.

Lord MALDENSHIRE was anxious that the views of the Government on this subject should not be mislead; if there had been any concession, it had been made to a political necessity, not a moral conviction. A reply to the House of Commons was required; it had been drawn up by a majority of their Lordships' House; and he thought it unusual in a minority to object to reasons so apparently.

After some further discussion, the reasons were agreed to, with some amendments and omissions proposed by Lord Derby.

The Earl of LUCAS moved the third reading of the Jew Bill.

Lord DUNLOP divided the House against the motion; there appeared 200 in the affirmative, 300 in the negative, 12. The bill therefore passed.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE MASSACRE AT JEDDAH.

In reply to Mr. LIDDELL, Mr. S. FITZGERALD said the only information the Government had received respecting the tragic occurrence at Jeddah was from the telegram, the truth of which they had no reason to doubt, and that immediately on the receipt of the intelligence Lord Malmesbury had forwarded instructions to our commanders on the spot to take every means in their power to bring the perpetrators to justice.

##### THE SLAVE TRADE.

On the motion for going again into a committee of supply, Mr. HUTCHINSON called attention to the slave trade, which, he observed, was never in a state of greater activity than at the present moment in spite of our armed cruisers. It had long ago been argued that it was impossible for this country, so long as high prices were paid in any part of the world for African slaves, to suppress the trade; and this conclusion, drawn from reasoning, had been confirmed by practical experience. Our system had failed; we had wasted our money and resources, and entailed consequences frightful to contemplate. He drew a frightful picture of the horrors of the middle passage, in which the mortality of the negroes was calculated at from 25 to 35 per cent., and for this result he held the House responsible. Another disastrous consequence of the system was that it had been dragging this country to the verge of hostility with two maritime States, with which it was our interest to remain on terms of amity. Under these circumstances, he moved a resolution, "That it is expedient to discontinue the practice of authorising her Majesty's ships to visit and search vessels under foreign flags, with a view of suppressing the traffic in slaves."

Mr. CARSWELL observed that this was not a motion to withdraw our African squadron, but to press a resolution, and so to fetter the hands of the Government. Mr. HUTCHINSON did not notice the resolution of the House of Lords; that the squadron was not ineffective, but was effective, and that its removal would annihilate a nascent and now flourishing commerce in Africa. It had been argued that it was hopeless to put down the slave trade with Brazil; but he denied nevertheless persisted, and the trade with Brazil had been wiped out. The squadron had suppressed the slave trade along 1,000 miles of the African coast, while a legitimate trade had sprung up in native slaves, which experienced witnesses had testified must inevitably be extinguished if the squadron were removed. He hoped, therefore, that the House would not give its sanction to a retrograde policy, which would be prejudicial to the interests of humanity and derogatory to our honour.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD said he should ask the House to express a strong dissent from the resolution. Mr. HUTCHINSON put the question upon two issues: first, whether our policy had been successful or unsuccessful; and, secondly, whether particular circumstances did not render that policy at

as to the first, he had come to a conclusion totally as to the fact of Mr. Hutt. In stating the facts upon which he based his motion, he showed the enormous increase which had taken place in the exports from Africa, not merely in palm oil, but in cotton, expressing a desire that, before many years, we should receive a most important article from the West Coast of Africa. With regard to the second part, he explained that neither with respect to France, nor to the United States, was there any prospect of difficulties to prevent our persevering in that just and humane policy which we had pursued for so many years.

Mr. M. GUNN said he was glad that the practice of visiting American ports in the Cuban waters had been given up, and he thought that the Government was, to a certain extent, carrying out the principle of Mr. Hutt's motion, which only sought to discontinue the practice of visiting and landing vessels under foreign flags. We were paying, he observed, a large sum of money to keep up a maritime police, which was ineffectual, since slaves were obtained, and it was impossible to maintain an effective guard of the extensive coast of Africa. Cuba got as many slaves as she could; but, in order to allow a margin for the negroes our cruisers destroyed, more were shipped from Africa: the middle passage was considerably more fatal, and our squadron inflicted a great increase of suffering and mortality.

Mr. GUNN admitted that the real question was, whether the system had been successful or unsuccessful. Mr. Hutt said it had been an entire failure. Mr. Gurney believed there was good evidence to the contrary.

Some remarks by Sir G. Perrell and Sir C. Napier.

Mr. DRUMMOND contended that our efforts had been mischievous; they had been injurious for good, and, besides the sacrifice of money, they had increased the suffering of the slaves. He insisted that the operations of our squadron had in no way contributed to the growth of legitimate commerce in Africa. He contrasted our conduct towards Brazil with that we had just now adopted towards America. We had truckled, he said, to one, and bullied the other, because this was weak and that was strong. He supported the former, which he regarded as a humane one.

Sir J. PALMESTON contended that although we had not done all we could, we had accomplished great things, and that, if it had not been for the continued efforts of this country, the slave trade would have been far more prosperous. The revival of the slave trade, which our squadron had reduced to a minimum, was contemporaneous with the reduction of the station in the Cuban waters in consequence of the demands upon our men in the Russian war. Late accounts from Cuba, however, stated that, notwithstanding the revival of the traffic, so great was the difficulty of introducing a sufficient number of slaves into Cuba, that a considerable number of Indians had been brought thither from Yucatan. The good rendered by the African squadron was not limited to the suppression of the slave trade; it had fostered legitimate commerce, and in a few years we might have Africa for a supply of cotton. He gave an indignant denial to Mr. Hutt's assertion that we had truckled to the United States, a charge which, he said, was utterly unfounded.

Mr. HUTT enlarged upon the splendid commercial prospects of the West Coast of Africa if the traffic in slaves could be stopped.

Lord C. PAGE said, he had a pocket-full of letters from naval officers, stating that the efforts of our squadron on the coasts of Africa, though noble and sublime, were utterly futile. He added his own testimony to the amount of suffering caused by the pursuit of slaves and to the hardships endured by the crews of our own ships on the African station.

Lord PALMESTON observed, if mere assertions could induce the House to concur with those who made them, Mr. Hutt would succeed in his motion, but all his assertions were diametrically opposed to the facts. Upon commercial and political grounds, he thought it would be unwise to retrace our steps, and, regarding the matter in a religious point of view, he suggested that, by reversing our policy and re-establishing this abominable traffic, England would bring upon itself a measure of guilt.

Mr. GUNN supported the motion, which Mr. DRUMMOND warmly opposed, fearing that he would heartily rejoice at hearing of the rising of the blacks, and at their inflicting a measure of justice upon their oppressors.

Ultimately Mr. Hutt's motion was negatived by 223 to 24.

The House then went into a committee of supply, when a vote of £11,050 for the salaries and expenses of the mixed commissions for the suppression of the slave trade was agreed to.

The Government of New Caledonia Bill passed through committee, after leaving sundry amendments.

TUESDAY, JULY 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ANOTHER OFFICIAL BLUNDER.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE asked if the report was correct that when the button supplied to the 100th Regiment on its return from Canada was replaced it was found quite useless, being without buttons?

Viscount HARDINGE explained that some delay had occurred in delivering the button at Shorncliffe by the intervention of a Sunday and the neglect of some parties, non-official, employed as carriers. The Noble Viscount said nothing of the alleged deficiency of buttons, but stated that the Government was now engaged in re-organising the clothing department of the army, and he had no doubt the result would be a great improvement in the system of supply.

CHURCH-RATES.

Lord PORTMAN, in consequence of the announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the Government intends to introduce a bill next session on the subject of church-rates, stated that he should not propose the measure he had contemplated, but he was quite ready to communicate the outline of his plan to the head of the Government.

The Earl of DERBY hoped the announcement made by the Government would not deter Lord Portman from laying his bill on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE OATHS BILL.

Lord J. RUSSELL explained the course he proposed to pursue with relation to the Oaths Bill and to another bill which was expected from the House of Lords. He observed the course adopted by the other House was singularly inconsistent, and placed the House of Commons in some difficulty. He could not understand the consistency of the House of Lords in declaring that there was a moral unfitness on the part of the Jews to take part in British legislation, and, at the same time, sending down to that House a bill authorising them to take such part in it if a majority of the House allowed them to do so, by omitting the words in the oath, "On the true faith of a Christian." He should propose, however, that the House should waive its opposition, as it was no longer a question of principle.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

The report of the committee of supply having been brought up, on the motion granting £16,474 for the National Gallery.

Lord ELCHO called attention to the report of the commission on the site of the National Gallery, and moved the reduction of the vote by £300, the salary of the travelling agent, leaving the travelling expenses untouched.

A discussion ensued, in which the subjects of the site of the National Gallery, the removal of the Royal Academy, and the merits of Mr. Otto Mündler, the travelling agent, were canvassed.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER suggested that the reduction of the vote would be a harsh proceeding towards the individual, and undertook, on the part of the Government, that the whole establishment of the National Gallery should undergo investigation.

From a division, however, Lord Elcho's amendment of the resolution was carried by 128 to 110.

THE SPECIAL SERVICES OF THE CHURCH.

Mr. COPPER moved an address praying that her Majesty will be pleased to take into consideration the proclamation of the first year of her Majesty's reign, commanding that forms of Prayer and Service made for the 5th of November, the 30th of January, and the 29th of May should be annexed to the Book of Common Prayer of the United Church of England and Ireland, to be used yearly on the said days, with a view to their discontinuance.

Mr. WALPOLE gave his hearty assent to the motion, which was agreed to.

The House then went into a committee of supply.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There was great difficulty in forming a House on Wednesday, and some unimportant business having been got through, the House adjourned at a very early hour. There were not more than twenty members present at any part of the sitting (except on division) after the formation of the House.

THURSDAY, JULY 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE INDIA BILL.

The Earl of DERBY moved the second reading of the India Bill. His Lordship gave the history of the measure, from the introduction of the Bill by the late Government, superseded by the first measure of the present Ministry, to the resolutions of Lord J. Russell, and the second Bill of the Government, modified by the debates on those resolutions, and now proposed for a second reading. The Bill, he said, had been carefully considered in the House of Commons, and though he believed few amendments would be necessary, the Government would impartially consider any that might be suggested during the discussion.

Earl GRANVILLE said that as the Bill came before them with all the authority of the Government, which was engaged in a most difficult task, he should not oppose it in any spirit of party, but cordially support the second reading.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH offered some objections to the Bill, which, he said, even had he been still a minister of the Crown, he should not have proposed.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE THAMES.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved for leave to bring in a bill for the purification of the Thames. This object was, he maintained, strictly of local character. The government, therefore, proposed to assign its execution to local authorities, and require the payment of its cost from local resources. For this purpose they intended to appeal to the municipal principle as organised in the Metropolitan Board of Works. In the present bill, a parliamentary authority would be given to the board to levy for forty years a rate of threepence in the pound over the whole metropolitan district. This rate was computed to return an income of £10,000 per annum. The expenses of the drainage work, for which plans had already been prepared by the board, were estimated at three millions sterling. This amount would be raised, under the provisions of the bill, upon a government guarantee, at 1 per cent., and the product of the rate was expected to provide both for the present payment of interest and the gradual extinction of the incalculable debt. Having thus provided the board with funds, the Government intended to leave the execution of the work entirely in their hands.

Mr. ROBERTS raised an objection on the point of form. The bill, he observed, included provisions relating to advances of public money, and granting powers of taxation. No measure of this description could be entered into except in pursuance of a resolution passed in a committee of the whole House.

Considerable discussion ensued on this point. Ultimately a suggestion, thrown out by Lord PALMESTON, was adopted, and all the money clauses, expended from the bill, with a view to their introduction at a later stage, and after the observance of all necessary formalities.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

#### POSTPONEMENT OF THE MAP OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

In consequence of the demand for the above Map, very far exceeding the expectations that had been formed, it has been found impossible to issue it with the present number of the "Illustrated Times." The publication of it, therefore, is postponed till Saturday next, on which day a sufficient number of copies will be in the hands of the trade to prevent any disappointment to the public.

During the month of August, a highly finished Engraving, on a large scale, of the celebrated Picture, by Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A., in the collection of the Earl of Ellesmere, entitled

THE RETURN FROM HAWKING,  
will be issued in connection with the Illustrated Times.

#### THE WELCOME GUEST.

A New Illustrated Weekly Magazine for family reading, by the writers and artists of the "Illustrated Times," amusing in tone, varied in character, rich in illustration, elegant in appearance, and economical in price. Nos. 1 to 12, price One Penny each, are now ready, and may be obtained of all the Agents of the "Illustrated Times."

No. 13 will be published on Monday next for the following Saturday.

Parts I. and II. of the "Welcome Guest," containing Five and Four Weekly Numbers respectively, embracing numerous Tales, Sketches, and Articles of an amusing character, including "Twice Round the Clock, or the Hours of the Day and Night in London," by George Augustus Sala; and illustrated with very numerous Engravings, are now ready, Price 6d. and 5d. each.

The Monthly Parts and Weekly Numbers of the "Welcome Guest" may be obtained of all Agents of the "Illustrated Times."

#### TITLE-PAGE AND INDEX TO VOL. 6.

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#### ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1858.

#### HOME TOPICS.

HAVING discussed, elsewhere, the bearings of the most important piece of foreign news which has lately reached this country, we shall now notice such points of more domestic interest as the waning session affords. More political excitement there is none, to gratify or to vex anybody.

We presume that, to begin with, the Jew question may be considered settled. Lord John Russell is evidently only half pleased with the way the Lords have compromised it. He would have preferred forcing the Jews in, by the mere will of the House of Commons, without the reservations and restrictions by which the Lords have qualified their action in the matter. We are very glad that he has been disappointed. We have said, indeed, often enough, that we do not think a man's religious conviction a proper ground for his exclusion from a political assembly. But we can perfectly understand that everybody may not agree with this; and, therefore, we not only view the Lords' opposition with tenderness, but we should not have supported any scheme for dispensing with the Lords' power of opposition if they had not withdrawn it. The Whig ex-Minister thinks otherwise. He would willingly have pushed matters so far as to set the House of Commons in opposition to the Courts of Law; and he evidently thinks that in such a conjuncture the House would have the people on its side. He was never more mistaken in his life, not even when he declared for "finality." There is a strong jealousy of the House of Commons, and a disposition to keep it in check in the country at present, and any attempt to make it more powerful on its own part would result in an agitation for its Reform, compared with which, the movement of 1830-32 was mild and moderate. Looking on Lord John's career as virtually over, we cannot but regret the exhibitions which mark the close of his public life.

On the whole, we are glad that the Jews will secure this right of entry to the House of Commons; because, in this age, and considering who are in the House, a religious ground of exclusion is a cruel and hypocritical sham. But, justice once done, as a matter of principle, it will still remain a question of expediency how many Jews ought to be elected. And here it is quite consistent for us to say that we are by no means anxious to see many of them in, and that, *ceteris paribus*, we should always give our vote to an Englishman in preference. But this is a question for the constituency of each place. A word to the Jews themselves, and we have done with the subject.

Let them show their gratitude to the people of England, by looking at the questions which come before them in the Commons with English eyes. A man may reside here, as a foreigner, and nobody cares what his sympathies are in questions of foreign politics. But when he enters our Parliament, he is pledged to our nationality; and his conduct, in all that concerns us, will be carefully watched.

The vote of the Commons last Tuesday, docking off Mr. Otto Mündler's salary, as traveller to buy pictures for Britain, is only important as showing how much dissatisfaction is felt with the relations existing in this country between Government and Art. We have often indicated our respect for the share taken by Art in national education. But in everything relating to its administration, Art seems very unlucky. We have no place for our best national pictures at all worthy of them; and we are shut out from part of the National Gallery by an Academy, which, having resources of its own, does not avail itself of these to find a place for its Exhibition. Government promises a measure to meet these difficulties. Meanwhile, we should warn our rulers, that mere personal motives have a great deal to do with the agitation on both sides of Art questions and that Art is very liable to be made the subject of jockeyry. By the way, how comes it that our Art agents and public servants are so frequently Germans? Can the country of Reynolds not produce a economist? We suspect that this consideration had something to do with the late division; and we add, it is the good which our Academy does to Art, by keeping up its social dignity, is somewhat neutralised by the tendency such an institution has to encourage social servility and Court dependence. Academias develope polite mediocrity, and polite mediocrity rises from a humble sphere, is especially apt to have its head turned by Royal Highnesses.

Another event of a very different nature has made more stir in the town. We allude to the extraordinary and appalling accident in the firework establishment on the south side of the Thames. Viewed simply as an accident, it has been far more fearful than anything London has witnessed for years. But how extraordinary does it seem that such a thing should be possible in a city like this? that there should be large establishments quite unwatched—subject to no regulations—yet liable at any moment to destroy human life to the extent of something like a day's bombardment? The very horror of the result scarcely destroys the ludicrous feeling with which one reads of "the red fire" taking light "in the back-kitchen." A more ghastly yet absurd picture—for it is quite Hogarthian in its strange colours—was never presented to us. Here is a whole neighbourhood living quietly, with an establishment in the middle of it, where the manufacture of every infernal combination of nitre, sulphur, saltpetre, &c., that the wit of man can devise, goes on as tranquilly as (and apparently with little more extra caution than) the routine of a cook-shop. Never was there such an illustration of the true Cockney recklessness of danger. Steamers have blown up; houses have tumbled down; fires have broken out; but this accident is at once more terrible, shameful, and wonderful, than any we remember. Its first result will be a demand on the charity of the public in favour of helpless sufferers; its second, we trust, some immediate provision that no such manufacture shall be allowed to exist within our towns, or anywhere outside them, except under inspection and regulations. Intramural interment was bad enough; but intramural massacre of this kind is at once stupid and shameful.

#### THE FERRY.

FROM A PICTURE BY GEORGE DODGSON.

It has been said (by Frenchmen, of course) that a landscape without water is like a drawing-room without looking-glasses. This upholder's comparison is, nevertheless, a good one. No amount of foliage or herbage can give that freshness to a landscape which is at once insured by the introduction of the smallest pool or the narrowest stream—for that which is true in Nature is also true in Art: the latter, when properly understood, being in fact a condensation of the former. Mr. Dodgson's picture, which is, so to speak, amphibious—being half-water, half-land—is certainly not deficient in "looking-glass," and it is one of the most vivid and life-like pictures to be found in the Exhibition of the Society of Artists in Water Colours. It belongs to a class of paintings which have been popular in England ever since there has been anything like a School of Art in this country, but which in in former times, and in other countries, had really no existence.

In the days of the old masters, historical and religious painters had nothing to do with landscapes—the little, stunted landscapes at the back of Raphael's Madonna pictures being exceptions which very evidently prove the rule. If Poussin and Claude introduced figures into their landscapes, they did so merely to satisfy a strange notion which then prevailed, to the effect that it was impossible the representation of more scenery could excite any sympathy in the breast of the spectator, except through the medium of some more or less living personages distributed among the trees or beneath the porticos of the inevitable temples. The mixed style—that is to say, the natural style—was certainly originated by the English, who, thanks to the absence of a regularly constituted Academy, with its professors of obsoletism and pedantry, have long been in the habit of painting what actually passed before their eyes; and thus, without suspecting it themselves, have created that which abroad passes for "a new school."

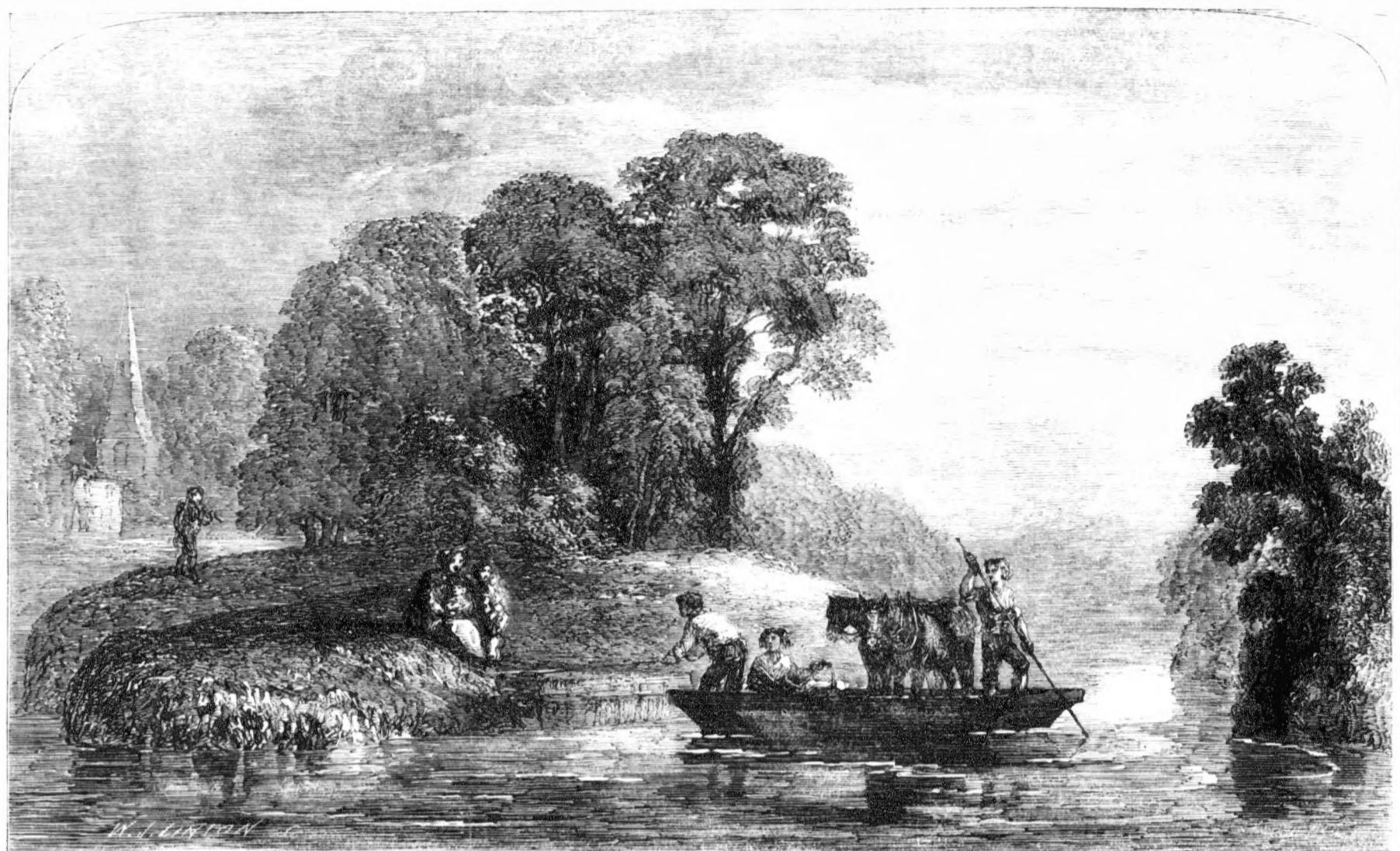
#### GOING TO MARKET.

FROM A PICTURE BY WALTER GOODALL.

WHAT an agreeable thing going to market must be when mountain and rivers have to be crossed, when the wife has a child to carry in her arms, and the husband a heifer to pull by the horns! But the picturesqueness is not always pleasant; in fact, it is generally quite the contrary. Rags and ruins are picturesque; so are lofty crags and rapid impassable streams; and so is the scene in Mr. Goodall's picture. But we cannot without a pang think of the life that trouserless Scotchman has to lead; nor can we avoid sympathising with the well-favoured Scotchwoman (Scot) "lassies," we believe, is the name given to them by their own countrymen, who is in the act of taking an involuntary foot-bath in company with the heifer; nor can we refuse our pity even to the heifer itself. Perhaps the only individual of the group who can be envied is the baby, for the baby is being carried. But in time it will grow up, and will have itself to go to market, when it will be its sad lot to cross high mountains and deep streams, pulling heifers by the horns or carrying babies!

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.—A letter in "Le Corriere Mercantile," of Genoa states that a Jew of Bologna, Signor Morari, had his house invaded by the Inquisitors of the holy office, and his young son carried off forcibly to the Dominican convent. A servant girl had baptised the boy without the mother's consent or knowledge, and the child is lost to him now. He has no redress.

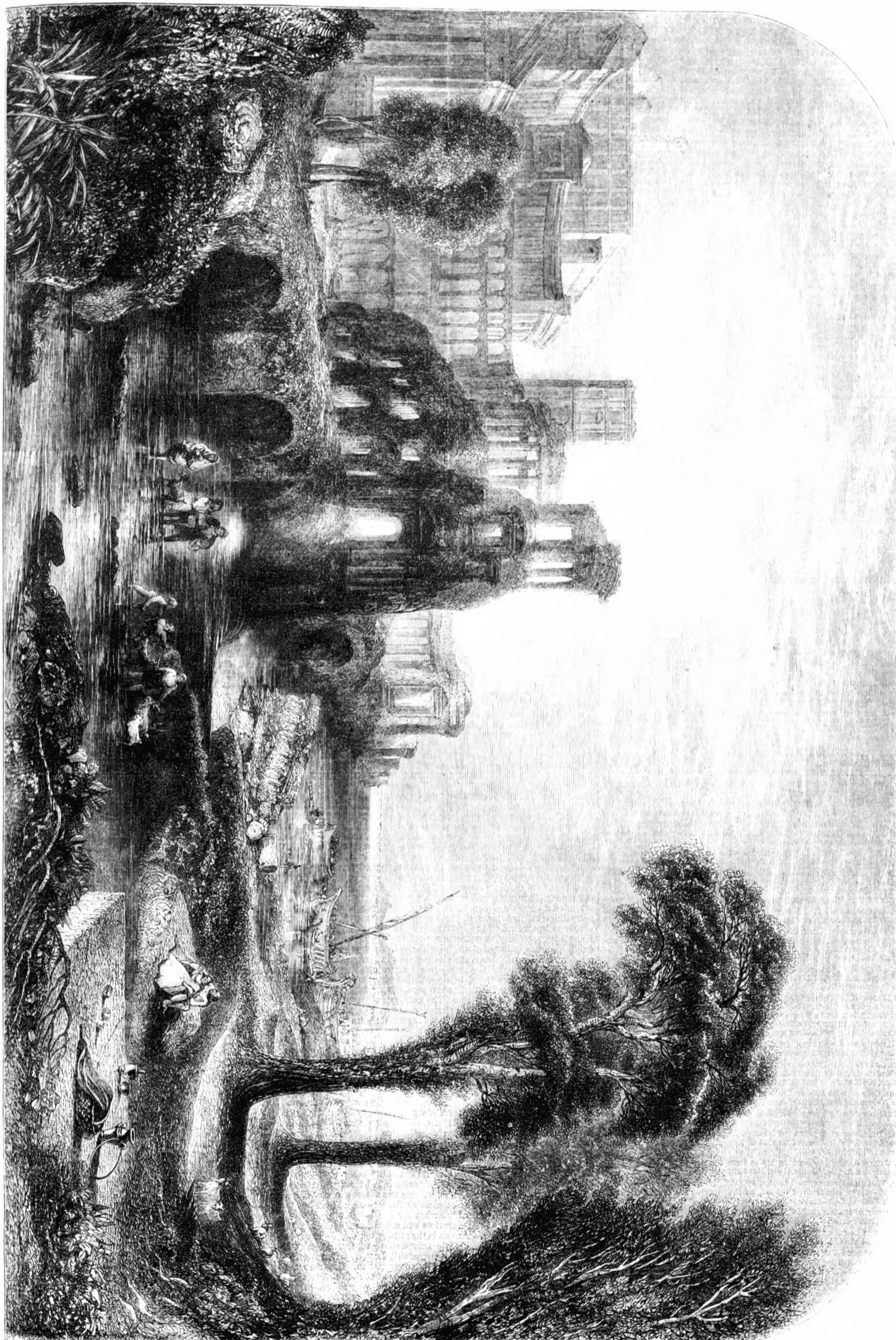
OUR FRIENDS.—The "Gazette de France" contains some remarks on Indian matts, of which the following is a specimen:—"After the double exhibition of England's impotency in the Crimea and in India, the pretension of our neighbours to remain sovereign masters of the commercial destinies of nations, and to prevent France from expanding, is simply ridiculous."



THE FERRY.—(FROM A PICTURE BY G. DODGSON, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.)



GOING TO MARKET.—(FROM A PICTURE BY WALTER GOODALL, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.)



THE BATHS OF CALIGULA.—[FROM A PAINTING BY J. M. W. TURNER, R.A., IN THE COLLECTION AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.]

## THE BATHS OF CALIGULA.

FROM A PICTURE BY J. W. M. TURNER, IN THE COLLECTION AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

MR. RUSKIN, who, if he cannot be said to have discovered Turner, has at all events pointed out a host of beauties in his works, to which the British public, as well as the great majority of British critics, were previously quite insensible—Mr. Ruskin, who has illustrated Turner in words as Turner illustrated Byron in lines and colours, has given in his “Notes on the Turner Collection,” a handbook which must always be referred to by those who would speak of any one of those wonderful, and for the most part beautiful, compositions with which the great colourist has endowed the English nation. But still, what can be said of Turner that has not already been felt by those who have seen his delicate forms and his gorgeous colouring? And if those tints tell not of his surpassing genius, what can mere words say, even though they be the words of Mr. Ruskin himself, who can describe better than nine-tenths of our artists can paint? No. Mr. Ruskin’s praise of Turner is valuable, because it is true, and because any one who has eyes and a heart can verify it by walking to Marlborough House with the “Notes” in his hand, and judging for himself whether the beauties that Mr. Ruskin discovers in the pictures, do or do not exist. Age usually makes men prosaic; and men as they advance in years, whatever qualities they may gain, generally lose what Mr. Ruskin calls (very properly) their “impressibleness.” But in Turner the contrary seems to have been the case. “As a boy,” says his enthusiastic and deep-discerning critic, “we find him at work, with heavy hand and univerted eye, on the dusty Clapham Common Road; but as a man, in middle life, wandering in dreams in the Italian twilight. As a boy we find him alternately satirical and compassionate; all-observant of human action, sorrow and weakness; curious of fishermen’s and fisher-wives’ quarrels; watchful of Jason’s footstep over the dry bones to the serpent’s den. But as the man in middle life he mocks no more; he fears, he weeps, no more; his fore-grounds now are covered with flowers; the dust and the dry dead bemes are all passed by; the sky is calm and clear; the rack of the clouds and rending of the salt winds are forgotten. His whole soul is set to watch the wreaths of mist among the foldings of the hills, and listen to the lapse of the river waves in their fairest gliding.” This power of recalling the feelings of youth at an advanced period of life, is, indeed, one of the distinctive marks of genius of all kinds; and Coleridge has shown how it may be made the test of genius, as compared with talent in poetry and in literature generally.

The works of Turner are assigned by Mr. Ruskin to four periods, during each of which the painter wrought with a different aim or with different powers.

The first period is that in which he laboured as a student, “annotating successively the works of the various masters who excelled in the qualities he desired to attain himself.” In his second period, he worked on the principles which he had discovered during his studentship without imitating any one, but, nevertheless, working in accordance with the theories of art generally accepted at that time. In his third period, he had overcome theories of art altogether, and “re-produced the simple impressions he received from nature, associating them with his own deepest feelings.” During his last period, the artist’s powers had begun to fail, but his works still exhibit that marvellous knowledge of colour, to which, after all, he owes most of his celebrity, for every one can see colour, whereas it is not given to all to appreciate poetry, and the highest forms of beauty. It is to Turner’s last period that the picture of which we this day publish an engraving belongs. Turner’s designs lose perhaps less in the hands of a skilful engraver than those of any other great painter; but, after all, line and shadow cannot reproduce colour, and those who wish to see the work in all its beauty, must not be content to look at our wood-cut version of it, but must go to Marlborough House and behold it in the midst of that admirable collection which the painter bequeathed so nobly to his unappreciative countrymen. The artist has conferred a boon on the nation, and the nation certainly owes it to his memory to study the gift bestowed upon it. “I trust,” says Mr. Ruskin, speaking of Turner’s death, “that the privilege which the nation owes to that death of studying in detail the works it once despised, may diffuse the knowledge of art widely enough to prevent the recurrence in other cases of so great an injustice.”

## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

FROM HELSINGFORS, in Finland (Russia), news has arrived that, on the 18th ult., a fire almost entirely destroyed the shipping quarter.

THE BISHOP OF CHESTER will hold his next ordination at Chester, on Sunday, the 19th day of September.

EVERY REGIMENT in the Prussian army is to be provided with rifles—muskets of a new and improved description before the end of the year.

MADAME FREZZOLINI has returned to Europe from America; so also, from South America, has Madame Lorini, known in her maiden days in London as Mademoiselle Vera.

THE PRINCIPAL EDITOR of the “*Presse*” is appointed to a place of confidence in the new Ministry of which the Prince Napoleon is the head.

A MANUFACTURER in the south of France advertises a preparation which he calls “*Eau de Noblesse*,” and declares that it makes the hair always preserve an honourable direction, and gives to the person who uses it an air of distinction and supremacy.

MR. RAREY has released his pupils from their bond of secrecy, in consequence of the publication in England of his treatise on horse-taming.

A TRANSLATION of the “Correspondence of Napoleon I,” of which the French Government has commenced the publication at the national expense, is shortly to appear in London, by arrangement with certain publishers. This correspondence will occupy several large volumes.

MRS. CHISHOLM, to whom the whole of the Australian colonies are under deep obligations, is reported, in the “*Melbourne Argus*” of May 13, to be dangerously ill.

AS MAJOR HAMILTON, of the Hornet, Chichester, late of the 10th Foot, was rowing his children, a boy and girl, about Binstead, Isle of Wight, last week, the little boat in which he was rowing was upset by the children climbing on the gunwale, and all were immersed in the water. The major was drowned, but the children were saved.

A HUNDRED AND ELEVEN THOUSAND POUNDS is to be voted this year for the new Westminster bridge.

THE SHAKESPEARE AUTOGRAPH is enshrined in the British Museum. It lies on velvet, in a sloping mahogany case, with plate glass before it, and curtains of blue silk to protect it from too strong a light.

FOUR COLOSSAL COUCHANT LIONS are to be placed on the radial pedestals of the Nelson Column, in Trafalgar Square, at a cost of £6,000.

THE GOVERNMENT have resolved to proceed with the erection of Victoria Hospital, at Netley, on the banks of Southampton Water.

MR. DISRAELI IS INVITED TO BELFAST, where it is expected he will arrive about the middle or latter end of August, and a grand banquet is to be given in his honour.

MR. JULES JANIN is about to retire from the post he has for so many years occupied in the “*Journal des Débats*.”

MR. W. CAVE THOMAS, well known by his fresco designs, has been nominated to succeed Mr. George Scharf, as Professor of Pictorial Art at the Queen’s College, London.

DEATH HAS DEPRIVED MR. MACREADY, the celebrated tragedian, of his only living child, a daughter, just entering into womanhood.

LONDON IS TO BE ENCIRCLED WITH TELEGRAPHIC WIRES from the house-top, in the style of Paris.

A TREMENDOUS THUNDERSTORM broke over Warminster last week. The lightning struck a public-house, which, with three neighbouring cottages, was entirely destroyed.

SEVENTY FATAL CASES OF CHOLERA are said to have occurred at St. Petersburg.

THE HON. MR. ROOSEVELT is mentioned in the American journals as the probable successor of Mr. Dallas, at St. James’s. Mr. Roosevelt is brother-in-law of Sir W. Gore Ouseley, the British Minister accredited to the Central American Republics.

SIR ALAN McNAB, so well known in connection with Canadian politics, is the first Governor of New Caledonia.

DR. SAWYER, one of the Senior Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, has committed suicide. He was the son of the marchioness of Connaught, of his brother’s name, and had been for some time in a depressed condition.

THE REV. J. H. GOOD AND SOPHIA LAVINA GOOD, his wife, are accepted as elegants for one of the fêtes to be presented at Dumaine, in July, 1859, as a reward for conjugal fidelity. Mr. Good married in June, 1857, and is incumbent of one of the churches at New Shoreham, Sussex.

MR. GEORGE THOMSON, formerly representative in Parliament of the Tower Hamlets, has just returned to England from India, in indifferent health, after an absence of two years and a half.

A HAIRDRESSER ON THE BOULEVARD MONTMARTRE, Paris, has assumed for himself and assistants the costume of Figaro, and in that theatrical guise they pursue their honourable calling.

UPWARDS OF 2,000 GUINEAS “added money” is announced to be given at the next race meeting at Doncaster.

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE “DISCUSSION FORUM,” where, according to M. de la Guérinière, “assassination was elevated to a doctrine,” has been declared bankrupt.

SIR JOHN YARDE-BELDEN is to be raised to the peerage under the title of Earl of Churton Ferrers. The second title will probably be Viscount Lupton.

ALEXANDRE JACOB, of harmonium reputation, has been cast in £1,000 damages by the real inventor, a working mechanician, named Dubain. He has been further condemned to insert this decision in certain French and foreign newspapers.

THE MAYOR OF MELBOURNE, Mr. John Thomas Smith, has been deputed by the Melbourne Corporation to proceed to England and present to the Queen a congratulatory address on the marriage of the Princess Royal.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHORE has issued an address to the electors of Stamford in anticipation of the recognition of Mr. Ingles, the present Lord Advocate, who has become the Lord Justice-Clerk of Scotland. Sir Stafford is a supporter of Lord Derby’s Government.

A “DORTY BOX” was recently discovered in Lucknow, at a place where treasure was supposed to be concealed. The dirty box contained jewels valued at £10,000.

THE NUMBER OF LETTER CARRIERS is to be increased, in consequence of the severe duties imposed upon them by recent arrangements for facilitating the delivery of letters.

SIR RANK AND WORNOUT TROOPS, to the number of nearly 100 men of all ranks, at 4 of various regiments now serving in India, together with thirteen women and twenty children, arrived last week at Chatham Hospital. They were brought home by the Army, which left Calcutta on the 13th of April.

THE MANAGERS OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION have appointed Professor Richard Owen to be Fullerian Professor of Physiology.

A YOUNG ENGLISHWOMAN fell in love with and recently married Juan Fernandez, a celebrated bull-fighter at Madrid.

A LADY was fined 5s., and 5s. costs, this week, for having stepped out of a train on the Crystal Palace line while the carriages were yet in motion.

A “STEAM BOILER ASSURANCE COMPANY” has been established at Manchester. Strangely enough, the company was suggested by Mr. Forsyth, whose death by a boiler explosion was announced last week.

THE LATE MR. JOHN SHAKESPEARE has bequeathed by his will the noble sum of £2,500 to carry out the work (set on foot by him during his lifetime) of restoring the birthplace of Shakespeare at Stratford-on-Avon to the condition in which it was during the lifetime of the poet. He has also bequeathed a sum of £200 a-year in perpetuity towards the same object.

LODGE DERBY has conferred a pension of £100 a-year on the widow of John Horne, the sculptor.

MAHOGANY SHIPS are the latest novelties in naval architecture. It is said that Honduras mahogany is for most purposes quite equal to oak, which is scarce and dear; and the captain of a mahogany ship built at Bordon gives her an excellent character.

RE-EVACUATION does not seem to have agreed with the French army. In the 10th regiment of Artillery, at Toulouse, so many men have been laid up in consequence, that the Emperor has sent down a physician, Dr. Lary, to see about it.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ANOTHER phase of the Church war in Belgravian has been brought before the public. The churchwardens of St. Barnabas, strong in their upholding of the reverend Alfred Poole, sharply and astutely requested the Bishop of London to assign his reason for the revocation of Mr. Poole’s license, and when the reasons were received, would have argued the point, but that the Bishop declined to enter into the controversy. The matter had been referred to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who supported the Bishop’s views, and so far the question is at an end, threats of appeal to a higher tribunal being held out. On the other side, a large public meeting of the anti-Puseyites has been held in the grounds of the Pavilion, Sloane Street, for the purpose of memorialising the Government for the suppression of the practice of confession, now attempted to be introduced into the Church of England. This open air meeting was most largely attended, (the numbers are so variously stated that it is impossible to gather exact statistics), and principally by members of the middle classes, arguing favourably for the interest taken in the subject. The chair was taken by Colonel Vereker, and among the speakers were Mr. Paul Foskett, the great gun of Brighton Protestantism, and Mr. Weston, the disinterested bookseller of Knightsbridge. A spirit of unanimity characterised the meeting, there were no interruptions (where was Captain Atcherley, with his wonderful lamp?) and the requisite resolutions were carried *nem. con.*

Another important public meeting was that held on Monday afternoon at Peale’s College House, for the purpose of enlisting the sympathies and assistance of the newspaper press with the objects sought to be attained by the Association for the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge, specially in connection with the abolition of the paper duty. Various gentlemen connected with the cheap press addressed the meeting, (a spirited, telling, and clever speech by Mr. Edward Levy, of the “Daily Telegraph,” deserves especial notice), and, by calling the attention of the press world to the benefits which would accrue, not only to society in general, but to the members of the fourth estate in particular, much good was done. The only opposition came from Mr. H. G. Bohn, the publisher, who feared, oddly enough, that the repeal of the paper duties would injure the export publishing trade. This objection was combated successfully by Mr. Baxter Langley, of the “Morning Star,” and Mr. Fowler, of the “Standard,” who referred to Mr. Routledge, who was present, to corroborate, if he could, Mr. Bohn’s views; but Mr. Routledge declining, the resolution, pledging the meeting to assist in obtaining the repeal of the obnoxious impost, was carried. Mr. Milner Gibson, that staunch foe to all taxes on knowledge, was in the chair.

Mr. Barber, the transported solicitor, has now, as everybody knows, obtained a favourable report from his parliamentary committee, and awaits compensation at the hands of Government. Cruelties such as were practised upon him can scarcely be believed, but read like fragments of old torture-stories among the Red Indians. It is well that your readers should know that Mr. Barber’s committee was obtained, not by consent, but in spite of the present Government, who may probably endeavour to make political capital out of it, as they have already been complimented upon their liberality and freedom from prejudice by some of the daily and weekly press. There was at one period a chance of the whole Ministry being defeated in *re* Barber—a nice question to go to the country upon. Mr. Barber has for the last few years been fortunate in securing the active services and sound judgment of Mr. E. H. Thomas, a gentleman well known in the railway world, without whose valuable assistance the unfortunate man would probably never have obtained his certificate from the Incorporated Law Society, his committee, and the chance of fair and liberal compensation. His case must undoubtedly lead to the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal.

It is not probable that the “swells” will endeavour to renew their Cremorne fête: they must have been thoroughly sickened last Friday. Daily papers have told you all that actually passed in that scene of sloppiness and damp, but none but those who were present can conceive the utter ghastliness of the whole affair. Everybody seemed out of place. The comic singers wanted the applauding knockings of the “goes” on the table, and sang sheepishly and without spirit. The

masters of the ceremonies, feeling that they were being “guived” by the company, instead of respectfully looked up to, as is their normal pose, longed to tear the silver rosettes from their coats and hide themselves in the reeking shrubberies. The ladies could not bring themselves to dance in their bonnets, or with the gentlemen in their hats. The waiters felt that they had missed the substance penny for the shadow sixpence; a gloom was on every one, and a sense of weariness and oppression. A funny skit upon the lady patrons’ programme was in circulation, and the regular frequenters of the gardens had arranged for a great simultaneous festival at Vauxhall, but the weather put an end to this, and the demonstration intended to be made by the “roughs of the Metropolis.”

Mr. Rarey seems to have made rather a mess of it. All that he taught his ten guinea subscribers may now be learnt, in his own language, in a sixpenny book, may in a penny pamphlet; and he now frees his subscribers from the penalty hitherto imposed on their betrayal of the secret. I confess, under such circumstances, I shall look upon my ten guineas as a bad investment!

Quite an array of high-class examples of art manufacture, in the shape of some magnificent pieces of silver plate, is to be seen during the next few days at Mr. C. F. Hancock, in Bruton Street.

There are a couple of cups to be run for at Goodwood, worked out in high relief, in a masterly style. On the one is the battle of Alexander and Darius, and on the other the battle of Hannibal and Scipio, both from Le Brun’s grand pictures. The figure of Alexander, advancing in the full impulse of a charge, and pushing his way through the throng of combatants, on to where Darius, aloft in his chariot, throwing down his useless bow, turns his horses to flee, is full of animation and vigour. The confusion of the battle, the triumph, and the defeat; the chariots and the elephants, the spears of the advancing hosts, as they come up in serried ranks, the *mélée* of combatants, the wounded and the dying, all the majesty and terrors of war, are elaborated in a style which is in no respect inferior to the most lauded of mediæval art. Another elegant work is the testimonial presented to Major-General Hall, by the officers of the 1st Life Guards, consisting of a column ornamented with trophies of arms from which spring the colours of the regiment. On the summit is a figure of Fame, and around the base are three highly characteristic equestrian figures, representing troopers of the period of the Restoration, one of Hanoverian George’s, and of the present day. Another interesting object is the cup presented by Napoleon III. to the Royal Yacht Club. This is a tankard, surmounted by an equestrian group of Lion Hunting in Algeria.

If last week I had to record the death of a monthly magazine, the “Train,” which lived for two years, I have now to chronicle the birth of a new monthly magazine, which is the organ of Mr. Robertson Gladstone and the financial reform party of Liverpool. It is called the “Financial Reformer,” and is devoted to articles attacking the wasteful expenditure, lax management, and general jobbery and inefficiency of Government. There is, of necessity, a sameness in the different papers, and a number of details, which make it rather heavy reading to those who do not feel an interest in the importance of the subjects treated. It seems honest and well-conducted, and ought, in its peculiar sphere, to work a great deal of good. I believe that in the leading article, “Breeches-Pocket Principle,” which exhausts in an earnest, yet humorous manner, all that can be said against the financial reformers, I recognise the hand of Mr. Hollingshead, whose clever, trenchant style of treating commercial subjects in “Household Words” and other periodicals, is rapidly making him a name.

The “Leader” has now for the last two numbers passed into the hands of a small party of gentlemen, who will enlarge it, and turn it into a special city organ. The present editor is Mr. F. G. Tomlins, of the “Morning Advertiser.”

London cannot boast of its comic publications. It has one, indeed, with a large circulation and a conventional reputation, employing one very clever man, several very respectable mediocrities, the best social caricaturist ever known, and one of the best draughtsmen of the day. By its woodcuts, and by the contributions of the one gentleman I have alluded to, it lives prosperously and well, and is likely to live. There have been many attempts at opposition, every one of which has failed, though in each case I can remember there was five times more real fun and genuine wit than in the original publication. But they were written principally by young men, who reflected but little or not at all on the consequences of their temerity, and who lampooned, satirised, and jeered at persons and things hitherto thought beyond the pale of such attacks; and while they convulsed some hundred brethren of the craft with their stinging hits, left the esoteric world in utter darkness as to their meaning. As I have said before, however, all these publications teemed with wit and talent: it was reserved for the month of July in the year ‘58 to produce the *crime de la crème* of comic writing. This is a magazine called “Quiz,” which appears to be a bad cross between the defunct “Sarcast” and the “Random Readings” of the penny family journals. Some notion of its fun may be gathered when I tell you that it professes to give a report of a meeting of literary men, at which were present “Mr. Charles Dicky Pins (author of ‘Who sold Curds?’), Mr. Breakpeace Thackaway (author of ‘A Van at a Fair’), Mr. Luke Citron, Mr. Shirty Snooks, &c.” The woodcuts I recognise as old blocks from the “Man in the Moon,” and some of the personalities are spiced with a very questionable allusion.

Lady Bulwer Lytton’s troubles are to be brought to an “amicable arrangement.” What on earth does that mean? A rigid abstinence from pen and ink should form part of the conditions, for the public’s sake.

Surely the lamentable explosion in the Westminster Road will lead to some law forbidding the manufacture of fireworks in populous places! Powder-magazines are always situated in isolated localities; and so frequent have been the accidents from pyrotechnic explosions that some strict measures should be immediately adopted.

IMPERIAL DUDGEN.—Prince Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte has addressed an angry letter to General de Fleischman, aide-de-camp to the King of Wurtemberg, relative to some statements affecting King Joseph, the Prince’s father, which occur in the newly-published memoirs of Count Miot, edited by the General, who is the Count’s son-in-law. The Prince calls Miot a “robber and a butcher,” a “lurid and dastard;” and concludes with the following delicate intimation: “As to you, monsieur, since you have not forgot to pick out of the mud the pen of the pamphleteer Miot, you will not forget, I conclude, that you carry a sword.”

GLORIOUS WAR.—Fresh details have been published in St. Petersburg of the casualties suffered by the Russian army during the war in the Crimea. It appears that in the affair of the Tchernaya alone, there were 3,948 wounded, among whom were 246 officers and 7 generals. At Fort Nicholas, where the first hospital for the wounded was organised, as many as 500 amputations were performed on a single day, and one surgeon had often 500 patients to attend to. Most of the men who evacuated the Simferopol hospital died on the march homewards.

THE NATIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—On Saturday was issued an account of the public income and expenditure for the year ending the 30th of June, 1858. The gross income was £66,879,000, the expenditure £67,226,600, leaving an excess of the latter over the former of £316,600. Among the extraordinary items of expenditure were the Princess Royal’s dowry, the cost of the Persian war (£200,000), and the expenses of the late war with China (£50,000). The balances in the Exchequer on the 30th of June, 1857, amounted to £6,611,000, and on the same day in 1858, to £5,882,000.

THE Czar’s LIBERALITY.—A letter from Warsaw says: “The following is a new trait in the character of the Emperor Alexander, which proves how elevated are his views. An agricultural society has just been formed in this city, and it now reckons 1,200 members, composed of the principal land-owners of the country. It held its first meeting here a few days since, and a considerable sensation was caused by it, as such an assemblage has never taken place since the last National Diet. The authorities became alarmed, and consulted the Emperor by telegraph. The following answer was, I am informed, returned:—‘You say that 1,200 members of the Polish nobility have assembled at Warsaw, and that you feel uneasiness at the circumstance. For my part, I regret that the number is not greater.’”

## KENSINGTON GARDENS.

ions may be seen the handsomest trees and the fine in England. The trees are magnificent fellows, and water-bouts, and branches so tall that a man looks no larger than a wren. But the poor multitude of trees red, shaded with white stone, the temples, neath which look about it of a court where it were mourning in sullen pride its boasted-sceptered building, began its architecture in the little mansion of Sir Henence Lovell, a man of means. It had the satisfaction of being the first in the Park of North.

"III, to the dignity of palace, and in my very riperess has it had the glory of a royal residence. Now, alas! it has sunk down to a house for destitute nobility, who are enabled, by gratuitous lodging, lighting, and a short existence on a couple of thousand a year, to stay years; there were no fashionble Gentlemen." How society goes on without the King.

The beautiful gravel walks, shaded by trees and under-trees, who lunch at noon, is enabled them to make a happy dinner at night, and a quietness and very excellent and easy, but quite unfitted for the exertions of the busy.

At sunset, a grand ball is given to the accession to the throne, William III, purchased from the Duke of Northumberland, his house and grounds at Kensington.

Now, you will think me, however, it is a very quiet life, and a straight new way through the woods of Kensington to the park, was.

It is laid out in long, narrow gravel walks, of which there are six of them; he had the square open space, or exactly one acre, which could do it, and caned the hedges to be allowed as a walk to be sculpture to type of all the trees in this Dutch garden that he and Peter the Great.

He was used to walk round the rooms, head after taking too much beer, used to fresh bumper of beer, with paper

very clear and ame of William III, whilst resili-

ent, and the King, who was a very good

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## CAPTURE OF A MERMAID.

A "mermaid," or angel fish, has been caught in the Forth. This strange fish is described as nearly six feet long, and weighing a hundred pounds. It has wings eight inches long, the face of a frog, and the tail of a shark. The belly is pure white, the back is light brown, the skin being rough, like that of a shark or dogfish. The wings are not unlike the two wings of a thick skate, and the teeth resemble those of a shark. The fish measures three feet across the wings. Just before it



MERMAID, OR ANGEL FISH, CAUGHT IN THE FORTH.

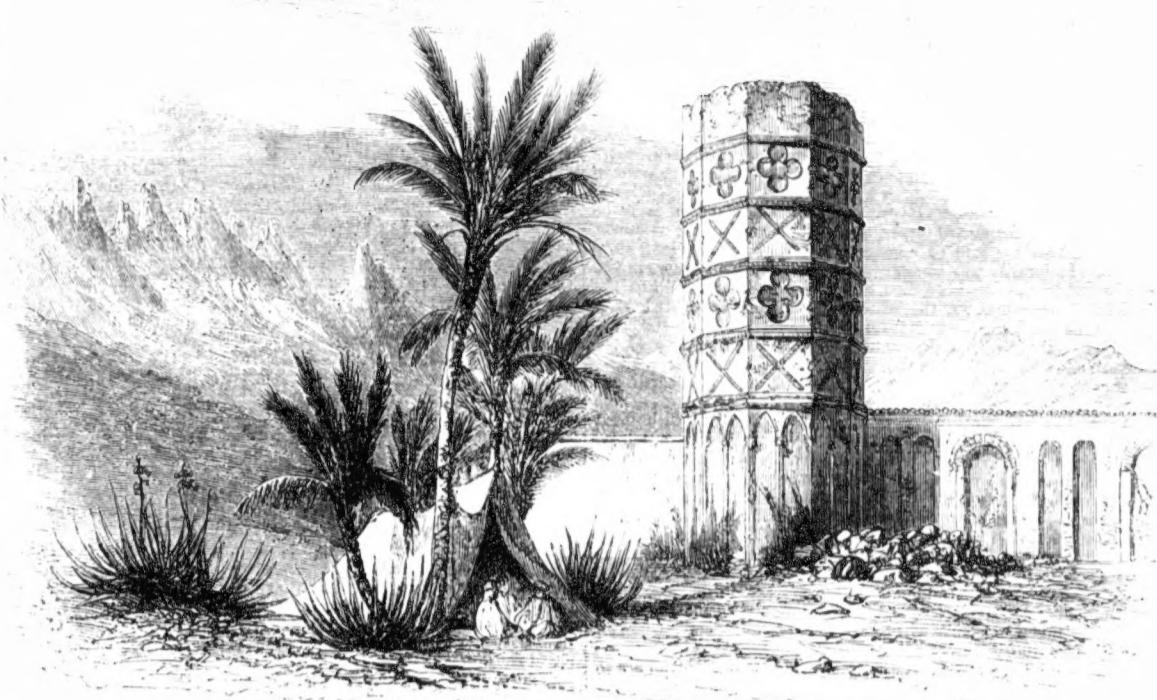
was caught, the fishermen saw it raise itself upright in the water, and then fly over the surface like a bird. It dived—ah, stern necessity!—and was caught in a turbot net.

## JEDDAH.

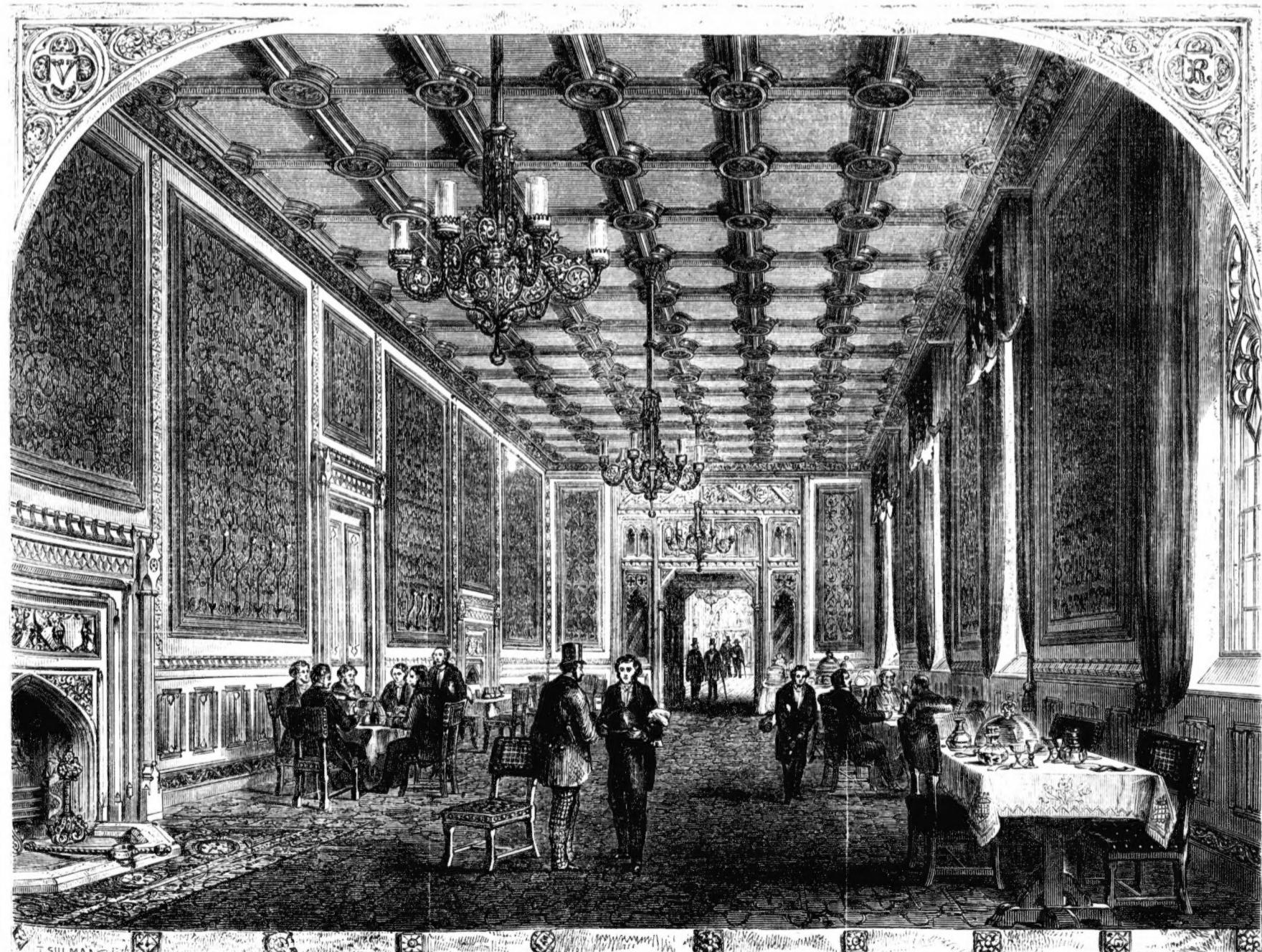
IN M'CULLOCH'S "Geographical Dictionary," Jeddah is described as "a mart, city of Arabia, in El-Hedjaz, being the port of Mecca, and one of the chief entrepôts for foreign commerce in the peninsula. Latitude 21 deg. 32 min. 42 sec. N., longitude 39 deg. 6 min. E. Resident population, according to Ali Bey, 5,000, but this number is often very much increased by the influx of strangers. The inhabitants are nearly all foreigners, or settlers from other parts of Arabia; the only natives being a few sheriff families attached exclusively to the offices of religion and law. Five mosques, poor and mean, the governor's house, and a small castle, mounting nine or ten guns, are, the only public buildings, except the khans, which are numerous and handsome. The houses in the town, built of stone and madrepore, are, from the perishable nature of the material, not very lasting; but in the suburbs they are mere

huts, constructed of reeds and brushwood, inhabited principally by Bedouins. The streets are unpaved; but Jeddah is, notwithstanding, cleaner, and in other respects superior to most Eastern cities of equal size. It is one of the holy places of Mahometanism, and its sanctity is increased by the neighbourhood of the reputed tomb of Eve, a rude stone structure, about two miles to the N. The surrounding country is a bare desert, destitute of running streams; and though well water is easily procurable, it is generally bad. The inhabitants collect the rain in cisterns, and the commonest necessities are brought from a distance. Corn, rice, butter, sugar, tobacco, oil, clothing, &c., are imported in very large quantities from Egypt, the Abyssinian coast, and (excepting butter) even from Persia and India. Jeddah depends, therefore, for its existence upon its trade, which is very extensive and wholly of the transit kind. From the interior dates, and the celebrated balm of Mecca, are brought for shipment westward; musk, civet, and incense, are procured from Abyssinia; muslins, cloths, cambrics, teak timber, cocoa-nuts, cocoa-nut oil, pepper, ginger, turmeric, shawls, tissue, &c., are brought from India; the Malay Islands send

spices and (what is not generally known) young females for sale at the Mecca market. The coffee trade, which, next to that of grain, was formerly the most important, has much declined of late, partly owing to the free admission of American produce to the Mediterranean, but principally to the impolitic exactions of the Pacha of Egypt upon this branch of commerce. A trade in slaves is carried on with the Mozambique coast; and, altogether, it is calculated that the port of Jeddah employs 250 vessels, great and small. The imported articles are conveyed by ships to Suez, whence they find their way to the Mediterranean ports, or by caravans to Mecca and Medina, from which cities they are again dispersed to Syria, Asia Minor, and Turkey. The caravans to Mecca start daily, those to Medina every forty or fifty days; but, besides this, Jeddah carries on no land trade, except with N. Yemen for corn. Twice at least in every year Jeddah is inundated with inhabitants, viz., on the arrival of the Indian fleet (about May), when merchants from all quarters pour in to purchase at the first hand; and during the hadj, when pilgrims come from all the African ports in vast numbers.



RUINS OF A MAHOMETAN MOSQUE IN THE VALLEY OF JEDDAH.



BELLAMY'S, HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REFRESHMENT ROOM

EVERY Englishman has heard of Bellamy's, and the "kitchen" of the House of Commons. Both these mean nearly the same: the place where Members of Parliament used to refresh themselves in the old House. "Bellamy's" properly means the whole establishment, which was called by that name, because from time immemorial a Bellamy had been purveyor. The "kitchen" proper, means, literally, what the term implies, the place where chops and steaks were cooked, and in which honourable members used to receive and eat them, hissing and steaming from the gridiron. There was a dining-room apart from the kitchen, where a few more fastidious gentlemen used to dine; but many famous men preferred the kitchen. In Bellamy's days, no dinners were provided; but simply chops, steaks, and veal pies. And, if tradition is to be believed, glorious chops and steaks, and pies they were, such as cannot be obtained now for love or money. "Bellamy's" has long since vanished. It locality was somewhere opposite Poet's Corner, in the angle formed by the Courts of Law and the new Houses. When the new Houses were opened, the office of purveyor was offered to a Bellamy; but as, henceforth, dinners were to be provided in the club-house style, the offer was declined. The refreshment-rooms of the palace are situate near the library, and consist of three apartments—two large capacious rooms, for the use of members, and a small one between the two which is used by the landlord as a bar. These rooms are, like every other part of the palace, fitted up with great elegance and taste, and when the members are dining in great numbers, and both the rooms are lighted up, the stranger from the country, who is allowed to peep in at the door, or, it may be, is invited to dine with the representatives, is not a little astonished at the splendour of the scene. The name of the caterer is Steers; and, on the whole, considering the difficulties which he labours under, the refreshment rooms are creditably managed. These difficulties are very great. For instance, sometimes a heavy night is expected, and he provides a large stock of eatables. When lo! the House breaks up early, and he has not a soul to consume them. Again, on another night, he feels sure that the House will be thin, and speedily end; when on a sudden some 100 members rush in when he has made little or no provision. How can a distressed caterer provide for guests who are so uncertain in their visits? Members complain that they cannot get such dinners here as they can at their clubs; but really this is not to be wondered at, considering the circumstances. If, however, a dinner is ordered beforehand, we have heard that the most fastidious have no reason to complain. Many think that it was a mistake to make that alteration from the old system. With due care to the quality of the meat, and the scientific attainments of the cook, the caterer could always place before you a capital chop or steak in a few minutes; but it is not easy to extemporise a dinner of soup, and fish, and fowl; and when some 100 members suddenly rush in, and all at once demand "dinners," the task would seem to be impossible. As there are only five months in the year when these rooms are open, and as at all times his trade is an uncertain one, the House considerably finds Mr. Steers all furniture, plate, and linen, and pays his servants' wages, and of course charges him nothing for rent, firing, and light. The kitchens and cellars are below—under the refreshment-rooms—and the viands are sent up by means of lits. Many of the members make the House their home. In the library they read and write; in the refreshment-rooms they get their meals; and when the House breaks up, they retire to their lodgings to sleep. The old officers of the House say that the arrangements of the new palace are too comfortable. In the old House there were comparatively few comforts, and then members went away. And then they often got "counts out"; but now there are always so many members about, that "count out" is a rare thing.

## OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. BALFE'S "Bohemian Girl" has been revived at her Majesty's Theatre with Giuglini, Beletti, Piccolomini, and Alboni in the principal parts. Alboni's character is quite unworthy of her. Her *role*, that of the Gipsy Queen, was originally played at Drury Lane by a Miss Betts, who certainly could never have imagined that one day some importance would be attached to it. Nor could such an idea have entered the head even of the composer himself, than whom no one can be more aware of its utter insignificance. Yelva, the Gipsy Queen, is, in fact, one of those parts which are perhaps necessary for filling up the crevices of a piece whose author aims at something like completeness and solidity of construction, but for which it is scarcely worth while to write airs, inasmuch as the artist on whom their execution would devolve, would in all probability be unable to sing them. Accordingly, Yelva is allowed to take part in some concerted music and in a duet, but her solo performances are strictly limited, in the original opera, to a fantasia on the pistol, which produces at least as much effect as could be expected from her singing. Now, however, this is changed, for Madame Alboni has assumed the ungrateful *role*, and Madame Alboni can sing nothing without rendering it beautiful. Not only does she become the principal figure in every scene in which she appears, but she has an air from the "Maid of Artois," to sing by way of *aria d'intrata* (to which the composer has prefixed a new slow movement), and this addition of a tolerable solo and of a perfect singer to the part, has the effect of making it the most interesting in the opera. Those persons who are constantly making an outcry about the decline of the drama (as if the decline of the drama in its present state, was not creditable to the intelligence of the public!), should observe how differently pieces are "cast" at operas and at ordinary theatres. The character of Yelva, in the "Bohemian Girl," is about as important (due proportion being observed) as that of Emilia in "Othello," but would the greatest actress in a dramatic company condescend to take such a part as Emilia under any circumstances? We think not. An actor with any pretension to the epithet of distinguished, would even hesitate about appearing as Iago to his rival's Othello; and yet we have no doubt that it never occurred to Signor Ronconi that he was in any way derogating by appearing as Iago to the Othello of Signor Tammerlik. Of course the reason for this readiness to operate on the part of singers arises from the distinctness of the *emploi* assigned to each; but if actors had less vanity and more perception, they might find out that they also have their special parts, and that to insist on taking the chief *role* in every piece, without reference to anything but the mere prominence of the character, is scarcely less absurd than for a baritone to wish to sing the music of the tenor, or the bass

As to the chief characters in the "Zingara," they are represented by the same singers who appeared in them at the beginning of the

Beletti is the Bohemian nobleman—one of those, to judge from his dreary demeanour, who did *not* invent the polka, as distinguished from the celebrated one who did. He continues to sing “The heart bowed down” as well as it can be sung, and to wear a fur coat in his

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The divertissement from the ballet of "La Sonnambula" has formed an agreeable termination to the evening's entertainment during the past fortnight. What an admirable story that of the "Sonnambula" must be, effective as it is in every form, whether it be the original drama (by V. Serile), the opera, or the *folk-spectacle*! Rosati dances magnificently, imitates the part of Amneris as well as Mademoiselle Viardot sings it, and Puccini is a better soloist than I have heard, and Lisa we remember it well. Unfortunately, *disco* is not quite so very dessive as not, otherwise it might be shown that the ballet of "La Sonnambula" is superior to the opera of that name.

At the Royal Italian Opera, "Don Giovanni," with the ideal cast, not yet announced for any particular night; but, on the other hand, "Martha" is played twice a week. Certainly the opera is admirably put upon the stage, as regards sheer magnificence; and many of the scenes are models of what scene painting should be. The costumes, too, are very brilliant, very fineiful, and, at the same time, marvellously correct—that is to say, they are marvellously correct imitations of the English costumes seen on the French stage. That the "getting up" of the "Huguenots," the "Prophet," and the "Etoile du Nord," should be copied exactly from the Académie or the Opéra Comique, even to the uniform attributed to the Preobrazensky Guards in the last-named opera, but which, in fact, belongs to quite a different period, and quite a different *corps*, was natural, pardonable, and, all things considered, commendable; for how could the comparatively inexperienced managers of the Royal Italian Opera hope to improve upon decorations and costumes which had received the approbation of the operatic directors of Paris, of the Parisian public, and, above all, of M. Meyerbeer himself? But, surely, we need not depend upon foreigners for our English costumes. Ought an English nobleman, even though his name be "Tristan di Mickleford," to appear before his astonished compatriots with one leg clothed in white and the other in green, simply because our enlightened neighbours choose to fancy that the pleasure-contrast was one of the characteristics of the dress of a British "merry lord" in the eighteenth century? Where, too, did Lionel obtain his unprecedented tights which Signor Mario wears so gaily, and of which the pattern is obviously imitated from the interior of a backgammon-board? Finally, what is the meaning of the "Martha" costume generally, alike ungraceful and unauthentic as they are?

"As to the music of "Martha," we have only to say what we said in other words last week—that it is lively, light to triviality, and sadly deficient in sentiment and grace. Many of the ballads are likely to become popular in the drawing-room, and this, by natural re-action, will aid their popularity on the stage; but there is not a well-written scene in the entire opera; and between it and such work as the "Elisir d'Amore," there is all the difference that exists between German prose and Italian poetry. By-the-bye, what an excellent entertainment the "Elisir d'Amore" with "Martha" cut down to the "Last Rose of Summer," would be! We should then have Madame Bosio in her best part, and "Martha" in its best part also.

At Drury Lane, "Linda di Chamounix," one of Donizetti's prettiest operas, and perhaps the most characteristic work he ever produced, has been brought out with great success. Madame Persiani appeared in her old part of Linda; that of the Savoyard is taken by Miss Baxter, a highly successful *débutante*, who, we understand, is Madame Persiani's pupil.

The last opera concert at the Crystal Palace differed from several others in this respect—that the artists announced to sing really did sing. Neither Mario nor Bosio was absent. The former sang Hatton's "Good-bye," &c.; the latter Venzano's waltz. The never-failing Grisi gave the willow song from "Otello," and Graziani the air from the "Trovatore," which the public always applauds, forgetting apparently that it is Verdi's, and therefore not to be tolerated.

**TERrible Shipwreck.**—The most terrible shipwreck that has occurred for many years in the Rio de la Plata took place on the 9th of May, when the schooner *Flor de Saito* ran upon a sunken rock on the Banco Chico, while on her passage from Monte Video to Buenos Ayres, and out of thirty-six passengers twelve were lost. The vessel sunk immediately. The survivors were picked up by an Italian barque.

**THE WAY TO THE ANTIPODES.**—"There are three ways," says *Times*, "to these valuable possessions. We may either proceed on the path of our Indian route as far as Ceylon, and thence southwards—a mighty voyage—to Australia and New Zealand; or we may take the direct western route, stretching away across the Atlantic to Panama, and then across the Pacific to New Zealand and Australia; or, thirdly, we may pass round the Cape of Good Hope, and strike the southern coast of the Continent of Australia. There is a fourth course, round Cape Horn, which only offers the advantage possessed by the alternative route to Paris—namely, that you may go if you please. But, of these three routes, the way by Panama is, as any one who looks at the map can see, the most direct, and, as we conceive, the best. The Panama Railway, which carries all the California gold on its way to New York, might reasonably be trusted with the Australian gold on its way to England, and the difficulties of coaling on the other side cannot, surely, be greater than those which beset the Peninsular and Oriental Company in keeping up their depot of coals at Aden. If the colliers that go from Sunderland round the Cape and beat up the Indian Ocean to deliver their freight at the mouth of the Red Sea can make a profitable voyage, there can be no difficulty in delivering coals on the shore of the Caribbean Sea, and running them across to the Pacific side of the Isthmus. The voyage round the Cape of Good Hope will, we presume, never again be adopted with a view to speed, and the Overland route, by way of Suez, has up to this time signally failed. Suppose we try the Panama route; it will relieve us at least from the labyrinth of blunders and failures in which we have involved ourselves, and from the speculators whose want of capital or conduct have led us into the mischances. Let us do anything, only let us do it well, and let the object be effected. The colony is of Victoria—our sturdy, independent-minded, and somewhat plain-spoken young friend in that quartier of the world—is rich, liberal, and impatient. If the exigencies of our official precedents render it impossible for us to establish a line of steam-vessels a ress a couple of oceans, and to work them with regularity and at a moderate rate of speed, suppose we allow the youngster to take the matter in hand himself? Our relations in the antipodes have a knack of finding out a way wherein to work their will, and they seem to have found out the wisdom of being something lavish for a worthy object."

## LAW AND CRIME.

## LADY BULWER AND INSANITY.

ENGLISH ladies have been the means of bringing about several historic reforms in modern times. The horrible system of Algerian piracy, carried on with impunity in the face of all Christendom, existed for ages unchecked, until an English lady, the delight of Lord

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London, 1852.

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occasion to which we refer, it resulted in the bombardment of Algiers, the liberation of thousands of suffering Christian men and women from slavery, and the eternal abolition of the most anomalous and barbarous system ever known in the world; one of the weak over the strong—slavery over civilisation. Again, our marriage laws, by which slavery, scarcely inferior in bitterness to that of the Algerine captives, was inflicted upon hundreds of unfortunate English wives, were later reformed, principally upon consideration of the unhappy case of a celebrated and still living English authoress, as related by herself. A third blot upon our civilisation has been flagrantly demonstrated during the past week, and the victim is the unfortunate lady of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton. It has long been known to all connected with our metropolis, press, and probably to not a few beyond that well-informed class, that the causes of dissension have induced a separation between the lady and the baronet. Sir Edward stood in this advantageous position, that while the lady was vehement and persistent in her accusations against him, he never deigned recrimination or reply, a fact which made journalists wary of comments upon the lady's published statements. Last week

Two more network saloons have been blown up, and the sacrifice of life and the injuries inflicted have this time been unusually great. The system under which this has occurred, has been carried on unchecked as long as the inhabitants of the Westminster Road can remember. Periodically one or the other of these establishments is blown up, to the terror of the neighbourhood and to the destruction of human life. One by one the Henglers, D'Ernsts, and Cobes have met their fate like the bandit-miller of the trampointine melodrama. How much longer is it to be tolerated, not only that a dangerous, and for the most part utterly useless, profession, is to be carried on in a densely-populated locality, but that the places in which it is conducted are to be in such contiguity that the destruction of one almost necessarily extends to that of another?

almost constantly extends to that of another? Some months ago a paragraph appeared in some of the journals announcing that a little boy had been stolen from his mother for the purpose of eliciting charity by mendicancy, and that a reward of £200 for his recovery had been offered by some gentlemen, in pity for the distressed condition of his unhappy parent. Beyond this announcement and the issue of a necessity limited number of hand-bills, no trace appears from the result to have been taken for the poor child's restoration. Last week, however, the matter was brought before the Lord Mayor, and public attention was almost universally called to the fact through the useful medium of the police reports. The child was almost immediately recovered at one of the workhouses, dressed in the identical clothes in which he had been kidnapped. He was found in company with the woman who stole him. The legitimate inference therefore is, that during the entire interim these two had been wandering at large, town and country, passing daily through frequented places past scores of policemen, and sleeping by night either in the open streets, lodging-houses under police supervision, or in the workhouses. If the authorities exerted the means at their command, the two could not possibly have remained at large a single day. And yet, at length, the bereaved mother owes the recovery of her infant, not to the vigilance of the police authorities, but to the power of publicity exercised by the press.

It came out recently, at Guildhall, that it is a common thing for vagrants to strip themselves under the arches of the new Victoria Street in the city, in order to present themselves in a state of nudity at the West London Union, and thereby prevent their removal to their respective parishes. A clever counter-trick to this was recently invented by an ingenious master of a rural union. A tailor was called in who, by the simple means of a pair of shears and some string, converted in a few minutes an old sack into a double-barrelled vestment, in which the culprit was forthwith clothed sufficiently for the ends of decency, not of elegance. The nether portion of this *impromptu* garment was then inscribed with the name of the union, written legibly with a brush, in letters of tar, and the fellow was turned out, after night's rest and breakfast, to exhibit his novel costume to an apprehensive



